



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

## *Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting*

### *2 February 2023*

Listed below are the main decisions and questions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions and questions. In line with our church policy, these are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions and ponder the questions and, if you have any concerns about any of them, to seek more information or ask for them to be reconsidered. Where possible, we will not implement the decisions for at least seven days, in order to allow time for people to respond. Questions or concerns can be raised with any member of the Host Group, or by emailing all of them at once at [hosts@southyarrabaptist.church](mailto:hosts@southyarrabaptist.church)

Those in attendance at the recent meeting via Zoom were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt and Nathan Nettleton. Apologies were received from Uncle Den Fisher and Ian Cook.

### **Summary of the Decisions and Questions**

1. We have not received any offers to take up one of Nathan's **simpler tasks** such as compiling the weekly notice sheet, and drawing up and sending out the daily prayer roster each week. Offers still welcome!
2. A reminder that we have drafted and circulated an **updated Child Safety policy** in light of new Victorian standards. The congregation will need to vote to approve this in coming months. If you have any feedback on the draft please let us know.
3. We have developed a **pastoral review survey for Nathan** covering the Covid period 2020 - 2022. We are currently seeking someone to receive the survey responses and report back, and we have agreed to offer payment of a pastor's hourly rate for this task. Once this is arranged, we will circulate the survey.
4. A reminder that, in light of health concerns for a number of our congregation, our **COVID protocol** for physically gathered church events is that people who have tested Covid-positive, or who live with someone who has tested positive, refrain from attending until it has been at least 10 days since the positive test.
5. We would like to remind everyone that **you can invite others to your home** to participate in services together - this might be valuable in particular for special services such as Christmas or Easter where a shared in-person meal might enhance the festivities! Nathan is willing to visit your home and help with tech solutions to make it easier for a larger group to Zoom in together - contact him if you would like this.
6. The host group has decided not to initiate a **Lenten reading project** this year. However, if anyone else has a book they would really like to read with others during Lent, let us all know and get it happening!
7. Nathan will take about **8 weeks leave** from about June 28 - August 19. The time would include one week on work time (Baptist World Alliance meeting in Norway), one week of conference leave (Societas Liturgica conference in Ireland) and five and a half to six weeks of annual leave (he has 10 weeks accrued). We are exploring what support we might set up for the duration of his leave, including the possibility of a part time pastoral care person, and also finding someone

who can be a Visiting Pastoral Overseer as our current VPO Roslyn Wright is currently on sabbatical.

8. A **Calendar of Dates for 2023** will be sent around soon.
9. It has become apparent in our Sunday liturgy that we **pray for churches** that are local to South Yarra, which feels increasingly irrelevant. Who do you think we should be naming in this part of our liturgy? When this next comes around on Sunday, take the time to consider what come up for you. Then let each other know, let's share our ideas.
10. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host meeting**, please let Nathan know if you wish to do so. The hosts may also invite a congregation member to attend a meeting if we feel they have insights into a particular issue on the agenda.

**Dates for your diary:**

February 22	Ash Wednesday service, 7pm
February 26	Lenten Retreat Day, St Luke's Abbotsford
March 2	Host meeting, 7pm