



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

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

### *2 March 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, Nathan Nettleton, Uncle Dennis Fisher and Ian Cook.

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

1. **Nathan's work hours** have been better this month. He has agreed to be moderator for the Ashburton Baptist pastoral search committee, it is hard to predict how much time this will take.
2. We have received no feedback on the **updated Child Safety policy** in light of new Victorian standards, so we will ask the congregation to vote to approve this in the coming month.
3. Sue McDonald has agreed to collect and write a report on responses from the **pastoral review survey for Nathan** covering the Covid period 2020 - 2022. We will circulate the survey shortly and encourage all congregation members and attenders to respond, your feedback is valuable for Nathan and it also forms a key part of his accountability to us.
4. Audrey Kateena, Clare Gogerly and Jonny Spoor have asked to be accepted into membership of our congregation - hooray! Ruth Rawlings has decided to complete the full catechumenate process and will apply for membership next year. The congregation needs to vote to formally approve the new members, so the vote will be conducted in the coming month.
5. The Federal Electoral Commission has asked if they could **hire our hall for the referendum voting** later in the year. We have agreed that they can use it for the day of the vote, but decided against giving them access for the 2 weeks leading up to the vote as this would disrupt our regular hirers again, and they have already had two significant disruptions due to elections in the past year.
6. This month we had the **back-to-school blessing, the Ash Wednesday service and the Lenten retreat day**, which all received positive comments from those involved.
7. **Ruth Rawlings has offered to take on some bookkeeping tasks** as a potential transition to taking on the Treasurer role when she becomes a member next year and is eligible. Our current treasurer Ian Cook is delighted to oversee her work during this period. Thanks Ruth!
8. We have agreed to seek someone to take on a **temporary pastoral care and pastoral leadership role** 2 days a week during Nathan's 8 weeks leave in July/August. Congregation members including host group members will take on responsibility for admin tasks and running the services, and we may simplify or drop certain tasks if no-one is available to do them.

9. In order to **facilitate conversation about future church directions, identity, names and other related matters**, we will trial having a designated break out room after the Sunday service for these kinds of focussed conversations. If you want to run some specific (or even vague!) ideas past other people or raise some questions, this is a space to do that. You will need to take yourself to that room, and you can do that more than once if the 10 minutes is not enough time to complete your discussion. Let's give it a go!
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:**

April 2	Palm Sunday liturgy, 5pm
April 6	Maundy Thursday service, 8pm
April 7	Good Friday service, 5pm
April 8	Great Paschal Vigil, 8pm
April 9	Herring Island boat cruise easter breakfast, 10am
	Resurrection Vespers, 5pm
April 13*	Host meeting, 7pm (1 week later than usual)