



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

7 December 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

Those in attendance at the recent meeting via Zoom were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions.

1. We have finalised the decision to split the **gift of 10% of building and grounds hire income** unevenly to our three recipients this year, with \$5000 going to the Theological College of the Protestant Church of Timor Leste, and \$1300 each to the Indigenous Hospitality House and RISE (Refugee, Survivors and eX-Detainees advocacy organisation).
2. **Melbourne Water** decided that the grass area at the back of the church is too small for their requirements, so they are not going ahead with the lease.
3. The **future of the Surrey Road property** continues to be something we need to make a decision about in light of the potential land tax we could be subject to now that we are no longer using the building for its primary charitable purpose, which is weekly church services for our congregation. We have contacted the BUV to find out what we need to know to assist with this decision making, but are yet to hear back. Nathan is meeting with new contacts from Baptcare next week to check if they have any use for the building (the first person we made initial inquiries to has now retired).
4. **Sanctuary Baptist Warrnambool** held their final service and shared meal on 26 November, with about 50 people attending, including Shelley, John Sampson and Glennys from our congregation. It was a heartfelt gathering with sadness, gratitude and hopefulness that the seeds planted will bear fruit in other forms.
5. The **Advent Retreat Day** was held at St Luke's Baptist in Abbotsford with 8 people attending in person and 1 online.
6. The **Open Baptists Association** is now set up and inviting congregations to become members. **Nathan** will circulate a discussion paper to explain what the Association is and how it will operate so we can consider whether we want to join.
7. A reminder that our **final Advent service** this year will fall on the same day as the Christmas liturgy (Christmas Eve). Therefore a shorter final Advent service will take place at 5pm, and then the Christmas service at 8pm. You may like to share a meal in person with some other congregation members in between the services, or even online.

8. 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:

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| Sunday 24 December | Final Advent service 5pm |
| Sunday 24 December | Vigil service for Feast of the Nativity (main Christmas service) 8pm |
| Saturday 6 January | Epiphany service, 7pm |
| Thursday 1 February | Host meeting |