



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

7 March 2024

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, Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions.

1. A suggestion has been made that we might trial returning to **physically gathered worship** once a month and experiment with a hybrid service and a set up of the worship space that is less physically demanding. The host group will not take the lead on this, but we have asked the person proposing it to raise the idea with the congregation and we are very happy to give our blessing to any of you who would like to work on it.
2. In response to feedback last year about the length of the **Paschal Vigil service**, we have decided to begin at 7:30pm and have a half hour intermission partway through. We'll see how it goes!
3. For a number of years we have organised an **Easter Sunday** boat ride, liturgy and brunch on Herring Island. This year we have decided to explore other options as the cost of the boat has increased significantly and a number of people have been finding the uneven terrain on Herring Island difficult to manage. **Do you know of a good alternative venue??** It needs to be physically accessible, good for kids (eg. space to kick a soccer ball), have a BBQ, seating and preferably some shelter for shade/rain. Please send us your suggestions asap. We will run the Resurrection Sunday liturgy online at 9am.
4. **The manse** is currently vacant but a different department within Baptcare has indicated that they are willing to resume using it under similar terms to previously. They should get back to us in the near future with a contract for the new lease.
5. Daniel Bullock and Debbie Uy from the BUV will hold a Zoom **meeting about our property** with representatives from our congregation at 2pm on Tuesday March 26. Several congregation members have expressed interest in being involved in this conversation. If you would also like to attend, please let Nathan know.
6. The **Open Baptists Association** is now set up and inviting congregations to become members. **Nathan** will re-circulate the discussion paper he sent around some weeks ago. If you would like to discuss this proposal in person, we encourage you to let others know by emailing the congregation email list and organising a time and place. We will have a congregational vote on this in a few weeks time.

7. Given the need to focus on property matters in the coming months, we have decided to **postpone a covenant review** for this year.
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:

Sunday 24 March	Palm and Passion Sunday service, 5pm
Monday 25 March - Wednesday 27 March	Holy Week Vespers, 5pm
Tuesday 26 March	Meeting with BUV about property
Thursday 28 March	Maundy Thursday service, 8pm
Friday 29 March	Good Friday service, 5pm
Saturday 30 March	Morning Prayer for the Day of Nothingness, 8am Great Paschal Vigil, 7:30pm
Sunday 31 March	Resurrection Sunday liturgy, 9am Resurrection Sunday Gathering tbc Resurrection Sunday Vespers, 5pm
Thursday 4 April	Host meeting, 7pm