



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

2 November 2016

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 were Eliz Cook, Nathan Nettleton, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor and Samara Pitt.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. Our **Advent Retreat Day** will be on Sunday 27 November, 10am to 3:30pm. Maria McCormack from the WellSpring Centre will lead. Venue has been changed to the **Whitley College's Theological Studies Centre** at 52 The Avenue, Parkville.
2. Our **BUV Delegates** will report back on the topics discussed at Gathering once minutes are made available.
3. **John B has been sleeping outside the building.** Nathan is working with him to ensure other church users are able to access the facilities, and to encourage him to find appropriate accommodation.
4. We have now made the **shift to Powershop** as our electricity provider with **100% green energy**.
5. We will **replace the struggling office printer** and broken scanner with a new Brother MFC-L9550CDW A4 Colour Multifunction Printer to be purchased for \$468 after a current \$200 cash back offer from the manufacturer.
6. Nathan will look to see what's involved for us to become compliant with the **new Child Safe Standards**, and will ask for help if required.
7. After our lively open space church review, we encourage everyone to **take the next steps** on anything you are passionate to see happen! That next step could be getting a group together, talking it over with another person, doing some research or just giving something a go. Nathan will send out an email to help get things rolling, and we will create an **Open Space Action Space** on the whiteboard to let others know how our open space ideas are coming to life.
8. We feel that the **lectionary illustrations** by Chris Booth are too small to work well in our notice sheet, so we will discontinue once the trial period has ended.
9. We will **farewell Fan** on her final Sunday with us on November 13 before she returns home.

10. We will **update our contact list and photo board** which have become quite outdated! Sylvia and Nathan will be in touch about this.
11. We have drafted a **new host group covenant** based on host group discussions of the old one over the past year. If you think anything significant has been omitted, please let someone on the host group know.

Host group covenant

Through our prayerful discernment and the affirmation of the congregation, we believe that God has called us together to host the congregational life, prayer and ministry of South Yarra Community Baptist Church as its Host Group. To this end, we make the following agreements with one another:

To develop ourselves as prayerful people so that we can seek the will of the Lord in all our activities.

To trust the Spirit of God to make God's will known to us, and to trust each other to work together in good faith.

To act with love and respect towards each member of the group, with all our skills, strengths and weaknesses.

To be actively present in host and congregational gatherings, modelling a pattern of full participation in the life, prayer and ministry of the church.

To tend to the physical and spiritual environment of the church.

To encourage the congregation in discernment of visions, dreams and the undertaking of tasks.

To foster practices of care and safety which enable the congregation to share problems and concerns.

To carry out our responsibilities and tasks with diligence and close collaboration with each another, communicating regularly; and to be willing to be graciously called into account if we fail to meet our agreed commitments.

To support each other, as sisters and brothers in God's family, to address grievances promptly and respectfully, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation across anything that divides us.

We stand together in this covenant, acknowledging that there will be times when we will stumble as we struggle with ourselves, each other and our calling, and knowing that all our efforts are dependent on the guidance, love and grace of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ.

Next meeting: Wednesday 7 December, 7:30pm at Nathan's place