



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host

Group Meeting

7 September 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, Ian Cook and Samara Pitt.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. **Church camp 2017** will be 28-30 July.
2. The BUV have provided a template letter for Baptist churches to send a letter to Malcolm Turnbull seeking a **more humane asylum seeker policy**, to be signed by the pastor and congregation members. Samara will organise the letter for signing at church.
3. John, a recent guest at our service, is homeless and has been **sleeping at the church**. As we do not have the facility to provide a home, Nathan is encouraging and supporting John to find suitable accommodation.
4. We are researching options to **refurbish our chairs** as a number of seats have torn cloth but we do not want to send them to landfill if they can be repaired. New lighter chairs were considered, but even good quality plastic chairs cost \$100+ each and would be less comfortable. Initial research indicates that re-covering and replacing the foam on the current chair seats (and maybe backs) could cost \$40 - \$85 per chair, and should extend their life by another 20 years. We recognise that the current chairs are heavy, but we have enough people who can lift the chairs safely, so we encourage only people who are physically capable to do this.
5. We will discuss matters to do with our **electricity consumption and environmental footprint** at the AGM, including switching electricity provider, installation of solar panels, air conditioning and church hall use.
6. We will run our **church review** on Sunday October 16, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm, using a creative consultative process called 'Open Space'. More details to come.
7. **Advent Retreat Day** is on Sunday 27 November. Details on venue and leader to follow.

Next meeting: Wednesday 5 October, 7:30pm at Nathan's place