



South Yarra Community Baptist Church Decisions from the Host Group Meeting 6 May 2015

Listed below are the main decisions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions. In line with our church policy, these decisions are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions 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 meeting were Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Nathan Nettleton, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, and Shelley Taylor.

Summary of the Decisions

1. The Hosts accepted a provisional quote for new signage: \$500 plus GST for the larger sign at the front, and \$300 plus GST for the smaller sign on the building, making \$800 plus GST in total. In consultation with the Boonwurrung Foundation and the reconciliation action group, we are finalizing the format and wording of an acknowledgement of traditional custodians. Changes and/or re-doing the artwork may lead to an additional cost of \$100 or thereabouts. Once finalized, the new signs will be ordered.
2. The Covenant has been lightly edited to reflect suggestions made by church members, and to remove redundancies. A copy will be distributed to the congregation for comment.
3. We have found a rug specialist to advise us regarding a new rug for the sanctuary. Nathan and Ian will finalize the research, and make a recommendation as soon as possible.
4. The Citizens Advice Bureau is the new agent for government emergency relief in this area, and does not wish to collaborate with SWERNI. The CAB will distribute relief in the form of supermarket vouchers; there will no longer be assistance for utilities, pharmaceuticals or other things. Stonnington Council is considering options, particularly since the funding has dropped from \$56,000 to about \$26,000 p.a. We decided that, for the time being, Nathan's time and expertise is our church's contribution to the situation.
5. The Boonwurrung Foundation was contacted regarding an acknowledgement of traditional custodians. The Foundation expanded our draft wording to read "Long before the South Yarra Community Baptist Church purchased and occupied this building, the Yalukit Weelum (people of the river) of the Boon wurrung language group of the Greater Kulin Nation were and still are a part of the 10,000 generations that went before. We acknowledge with respect their Elders past and present and to the future, and commit ourselves to work together for recognition and justice for the First Peoples of this country." We will use this wording inside the building.
6. Boonwurrung Elder Aunty Carolyn Briggs would like to talk with us about appropriate artwork. Representatives of the reconciliation action group will meet with her.
7. We will include a rite of belonging for our Junior Catechumens in the annual covenanting service.
8. The Host Group will undergo a review in August and September 2015.
9. Next meeting: Wednesday 3 June, 7.30pm at Nathan's house