



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

5 June 2019

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 Nathan Nettleton, Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Ian Cook and Samara Pitt.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. Yvonne is hosting our first **story sharing event** on Monday 10 June. These one-off events in people's homes or other spaces outside church are an opportunity to share and hear about someone's experiences of day-to-day life and faith. If you would like to host an event, or if you would like to hear from somebody else, give them a nudge and let Samara know!
2. The discernment forum on May 19 used listening circles to discuss the **proposed covenant** for our covenanting service on June 23 which incorporates some changes based on our 2018 Open Space discussions on this topic. For the covenanting service on June 23, the content of the covenant and the associated rites for membership will be much the same as last year. Those who wish to are welcome to use the new covenant template that gives space for people to offer their own specific actions for living out the congregational covenant this year.
3. The **prayer labyrinth** has been installed in the church garden and a few folks from church and other hall users have used it. The early dark and rain of winter may mean that some people haven't had the opportunity to try the labyrinth on a Sunday, but feel free to come early, take a flyer and have a go. The grass is growing so we may remove it soon, but Samara hopes to install it again in the warmer months.
4. A few hardy souls braved a cold, wet night to attend the ecumenical **Ascension service** at Christ Church South Yarra.
5. With the new kitchen in full swing, it is timely to remind all who assist with supper of a couple of **supper safety and workflow guidelines**. Firstly, those rostered on to kitchen duty are 'the boss' for their evening, please check with them regarding jobs and numbers of people in the kitchen. Secondly, once dips have been opened, they can't be kept for the following week. Please send them home with someone or throw them out (and preferably recycle the container!) As much as possible, we don't want to store up food in the church, and there is generally someone in the congregation who will gladly take home any leftovers.
6. A concern has been raised about **how our congregation would respond if subjected to a disruptive invasion of our worship service** such as that recently inflicted on an MCC congregation in Hawthorn by a right-wing serial pest. The main protagonist in that situation filmed himself loudly condemning the congregation for their stance on LGBT inclusion, and

then uploaded the footage of the subsequent confrontation online. We hope to run a workshop later in the year to figure out some creative non-violent responses to such an event. In the meantime, Samara and Nathan will work on a simple plan to give us some guidelines should this (fairly unlikely) situation arise before a workshop can be arranged.

7. The **church anniversary and covenanting service will be held on Sunday June 23** at our usual worship time of 5pm. At this service, the liturgy and the covenanting rites are wrapped around a 3 course meal. All are welcome! Samara is coordinating a **potluck supper** so if you are able to bring something to share (a main, a salad, a dessert, a drink, some bread or some dips), please let her know as soon as possible.
8. **Nathan will be away** for conferences and annual leave from Sunday 7 July to Saturday 17 August. Thanks to everyone who has offered to preach during that time.
9. Thanks to all who offered feedback about **revising our liturgy**. There were lots of odes to parts that people love and value, and a few suggestions about things that could be changed (which sometimes coincided with what other people thought should definitely not be changed!). John Sampson enlightened us as to why liturgy is like sex. Overall, we didn't get a sense that a major revamp is required. Nathan will start work on possible updates to the texts when he returns from leave. Whatever he comes up with will be circulated for comment and improvement before being used.

Dates for your diary:	June 9	Pentecost
	June 23	Anniversary dinner, and covenanting service
	June 30	Discernment workshop tbc
	July 3	Host Meeting
	July 21	Working Bee
	July 28	Afternoon activity

Next meeting: 3 July 2019, 7:30pm, Nathan's place