



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

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

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. We are still researching the best **exhaust fan** option for our high-ceiling-ed kitchen. In the meantime we will try and open the window during supper duty to disperse some of the condensation.
2. We are resuming the process towards installing **solar panels** on the church building, and will seek advice on installers and request quotes soon.
3. The **workshop on non-violence training** will be held on Sunday October 13, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. Please rsvp if you are planning to come and haven't already done so. Some people from Fitzroy North Church of Christ may also join us.
4. We have received some feedback on the **listening circle sermons**, with some mixed feelings, and preferences for holding them somewhere between every 4-8 weeks. Several people found it hard to hear, so we will purchase a hand held microphone which will become our 'talking piece'. We will trial another listening circle sermon this Sunday, further feedback welcome.
5. The only remaining gas appliance in use is the heater in the old soup room. We will get a quote for a **reverse cycle air conditioner** for this room, which will then enable us to switch off gas to the church building altogether.
6. Thanks for all who attended the AGM and contributed to the thoughtful listening circle about **next steps for the manse** which affirmed our congregation's commitment to making this building available for good use rather than just making lots of money from market rental. We are going ahead with Homeground real estate in their short term rental program for families who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. 3 month leases will enable these families to get a rental record and enter the private real estate market. We have spent one working bee day on fixing up a number of areas of the manse, and hope to complete this work this weekend so that we can lease it out as soon as possible. Nathan has emailed the congregation **seeking furniture and other household items to furnish the manse**, so please contact Nathan if you have anything you can offer.

7. We will be holding a **simple liturgy and listening circle** on Sunday October 20 at 3pm to mark the unexpected loss of a family from our congregation and our manse. It will be held in the manse if available, or the chapel.
8. We have decided to **employ someone to do lawn and garden maintenance**, with John F offering to provide a volunteer supervision/communication role as needed. An asylum seeker who recently visited the church expressed interest. Nathan is researching an appropriate hourly rate.
9. At the BUV Delegates dinner on October 18, delegates will be discussing a proposal to use the terminology of '**climate emergency**' which could encourage churches and the government to make the kind of wide-ranging economic and social decisions that societies do when facing a major threat. They will also be discussing how individuals, churches and the BUV can act in response to this climate emergency.

Dates for your diary:	Oct 13	Workshop (non-violence training), 1:30pm
	Oct 18 (Friday)	BUV delegates dinner
	Oct 20	Ritual re loss of family, 3pm
	Oct 26	Day at Fryerstown with the Gahans
	Nov 1 (Friday)	Feast of All Saints, 6pm, St Martins

Next meeting: 6 November 2019, 7:30pm, Nathan's place