



AGM Minutes

2:30pm 15 September 2019

1. Attendance and Apologies

- 1.1. Attending: Dennis Fisher, Suzanne Peart, Merryl Gahan, Paul Gahan, John Sampson, Glennys Williams, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Dom Filippi, Tara Filippi, Lior Filippi, John Fowler, Ian Cook, Eliz Cook, Sylvia Sandeman, Acacia Nettleton, Samara Pitt, Nathan Nettleton, Cameron Cutts (from 2:55pm), Stuart Royston (from 3:04pm).
- 1.2. Apologies: Gilbert Joyce, Yvonne Joyce, Rita Wang, Margie Welsford, Robert Toseland

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- 2.1. **Motion:** *That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the congregational AGM held on 16 September 2018.*

Outcome: Approved.

- 2.2. **Motion:** *That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Special meeting held on 19 May 2019 (voting on experimenting with a new style of covenant).*

Outcome: Approved.

- 2.3. **Motion:** *That we now approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Special meeting held on 26 May 2019 (voting on accepting a person into membership).*

Outcome: Approved.

3. Reports

3.1. Host Group Report

Motion: That the congregation accept the Host Group report as tabled and thank the Hosts for their ministry among us.

Outcome: Approved.

3.2. Pastor's Report

Motion: That the congregation accept the Pastor's report as tabled and thank Nathan for his ministry among us.

Outcome: Approved.

3.3. Property Report

Motion: That the congregation accept the Property report as shared verbally and thank Ian his oversight of the care of our properties, and also Ian, Eliz, John F and Sylvia for their role in the kitchen renovation.

Outcome: Approved.

3.4. Membership Report

Motion: That the congregation accept the Membership report as presented with the changes noted, and thank Shelley for maintaining these records for us.

Discussion: Suzanne has been approved to become a member, but has not yet undergone the membership rite so is not listed as a member currently. Our adult catechumenate program is no longer active.

Outcome: Approved.

4. Financial Reports

4.1. Financial Report for the 2018-2019 financial year

Motion: That the Church accept the financial reports for the past year as presented and thanks Ian for his work.

Discussion: Carpark rental has a small CPI increase included in the 5 year lease. Hall hire income reflects the strong usage of the hall.

Outcome: Approved.

4.2. Budget for the 2019-2020 financial year

Motion: That the church endorse the budget for the 2018-2019 financial year as presented and thanks Ian for preparing it for us.

Discussion: No spending or income from the manse has been included in the budget yet, as no decisions have yet been made.

Outcome: Approved.

4.3. Recipients of our Annual Giving

Background: Each year, the church gives away 10% of its facility hire income to ministries elsewhere. This is split between four recipients: one local, one elsewhere in Australia, one overseas, and one related to asylum seekers.

Motion: That we give away 10% of our facility hire income for the past year and split it between four recipients:

- Vida en Familia (Life in Family) Baptist Church in Ocatlan, Mexico;
- the Indigenous Hospitality House;
- Sanctuary Baptist at Warrnambool;
- RISE (Refugees, Survivors and Ex-detainees), the first refugee and asylum seeker organisation in Australia to be run and governed by refugees, asylum seekers and ex-detainees.

Discussion: Nathan proposed we give our international gift to the Vida en Familia (Life in Family) Baptist Church in Ocatlan, Mexico which has a focus on welcoming indigenous people and expressions into its work and life. Sanctuary Baptist have a particular financial need at the moment, and have a rural/regional focus. We note that RISE and IHH don't accept government funding, which is in line with the historical Baptist principle of separation of church and state.

Outcome: Approved

5. Elections

5.1. BUV Delegates

Motion: That the congregation endorse Cameron Cutts and Ian Cook as our delegates to the BUV Assembly Gatherings, and Merryl Gahan, Shelley Taylor and John Fowler as back-up delegates.

Outcome: Approved.

6. Necessary Tasks

Explanation: There are numerous people who contribute their time and labour to carry out the various tasks necessary to the ongoing operation of our common life, prayer and ministry. Many of these tasks are largely invisible, and are barely noticed unless they are not done. There are always some that are overlooked when we make up the list, so we add to the list in the meeting. These are not elected positions, and the fact that people are named as doing them does not mean that no one else can express interest in taking on the tasks. In most cases, the people doing them would welcome help, and in some cases they would love to hand the tasks over completely. There are some people who are doing too many of these tasks, and we would love to see them shared around more equally. So if this list prompts you to think, "I could do that one day," don't be afraid to communicate that thought to the Hosts or the person presently in the role.

Published List:

Bank Account Signatories: Nathan Nettleton, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt

Birthday Cake Baker: Yvonne Joyce

Camp Committee: Shelley Taylor, Eliz Cook

Correspondence secretary: Shelley Taylor

Hall Hire Bookings and Invoicing: Eliz Cook

Hall set up: Nathan, Dennis, Stuart, Samara

Kitchen & Bathroom Supplies Purchaser: Sylvia Sandeman

Minute Taker for Host Meetings: Samara Pitt

Music - Sunday song leading and teaching: Samara Pitt

Music - large print book weekly assembly: Samara Pitt

Music Copyright reporting: Margie Welsford & Samara Pitt

Noticeboard and Leaflet table maintenance: Acacia Nettleton

Weekly Bible Readings Filing: Samara Pitt

Weekly website update: Robert Toseland

Wednesday Night Meditation Coordination: Suzanne Peart

Monthly Sunday afternoon Meditation Coordination: Glennys Williams and John Fowler

Congregational sommelier (wine purchasing): John Fowler

Offering Counters: Eliz Cook, Rita Wang, Yvonne Joyce, John Sampson, Acacia Nettleton and occasional others

Offering Banker & Bill Payer: Shelley Taylor

Property maintenance: Ian Cook

Supper roster participants: Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Cameron Cutts, Margie Dahl, John Fowler, Merryl Gahan, Yvonne Joyce, Acacia Nettleton, Nathan Nettleton, Suzanne Peart, Samara Pitt, John Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor, Rita Wang, Glennys Williams.

Church Taxi Service: John Sampson, Gilbert Joyce, Sylvia Sandeman, Nathan Nettleton

New task: Donation collections for ASRC and IHH: Merryl Gahan

Vacancies: There are also some jobs looking people to take them on:

- Garden maintenance
- Lawn mowing
- Preparation of weekly notice sheets

- Assembling and filing prayer and song inserts for weekly liturgies
- Weekly gathering of vegetation for the “Creation Prayer Station”
- Social Media Administrator
- Maintaining the Children’s Craft Trolley
- Minute Taker for Church Meetings
- Minute Secretary for the local Emergency Relief Network (this one doesn’t need to come from our congregation, but it could, and it is currently needed)

Motion: That the congregation endorse all those who do the necessary tasks for our Church and thank them for their service during the past year.

Outcome: Approved.

7. Looking Forward

The following matters are for exploration using a “listening circle” approach to hear what feelings, thoughts and ideas might be emerging around them.

7.1. Future Use of the Manse

Explanation: In beginning to consider how we might best use our unexpectedly vacant manse, we have sought advice from Homeground Real Estate, a not-for-profit estate agency connected with Launch Housing who we are connected to through the local Emergency Relief Network. They have inspected the house and discussed some possibilities with Nathan. They have estimated the possible rental returns on the open market as being in the \$700 - \$750 per week range. There are some basic repairs that are needed before it could be rented out. More major renovations would increase the potential returns. Maximising the financial returns is one option, and could provide us with money to do other worthwhile things.

An alternative is to use the house itself for socially useful purposes. Launch Housing have a program called Affordable Options for Families (AOF) which aims to provide a short term (usually 3 months) tenancy, with subsidised rental and social supports to needy families who are trying to make the transition from crisis accommodation to permanent private rental accommodation. One of the things that often holds back such families is the lack of a recent private tenancy history, and so this program aims to give them the opportunity to obtain one. The program carefully vets and supports the families to ensure that they are likely to succeed, because it is in no one’s interests to have them fail. Many of these families are single parent families escaping from contexts of domestic violence.

The rental we would receive through the AOF program would not be as high as a long term rental on the open market, but not hugely less, and certainly more than we were receiving in the last few years. It may vary a bit from one tenancy to another, because it is paid in part by the tenants and in part through grants from Launch Housing. Homeground/Launch would be very excited about the possibility of our manse being part of this program because they don’t often get offers of houses as big as this one and, dealing with families, they often need bigger houses.

This possibility could be a huge win-win. Not only would we be making a valuable contribution to an important social housing initiative, but we would be increasing our rental income while still maintaining flexibility about future usage changes, because we would only be locked in for three months at a time. So in our listening-circle, people may like to respond to this possibility, or to share other possible questions, hopes or dreams about the future use of the manse.

Outcome: The host group will take the points raised in the listening circle into consideration as they pursue options for the manse.

7.2. Open Floor

Explanation: If time allows, we will have another listening-circle in which people can raise anything they want to share: questions, wonderings, ideas, reflections, prophetic proclamations (!).

8. Next AGM: 20 September 2020

Reports and Papers

Host group report for AGM 2019

The **Host Group in 2018 – 2019** has consisted of Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Samara Pitt and Shelley Taylor, with Nathan Nettleton as pastor and chair. We generally meet on the first Wednesday of the month at Nathan's place in Parkville.

In October we **sponsored the Equal Voices conference** 'Connecting Stories' to show solidarity with LGBTIQA+ Christians and allies, to educate ourselves and to promote our church as a welcoming place. And to provide ice-cream!

We were delighted to support **Alison Sampson as she was ordained** in October. She was presented to the gathering by two women and a child which was a significant symbolic marker of her call. **Sanctuary Warrnambool** has been recognised by the BUV as a 'faith community', and we continue to provide some administrative support until it becomes a fully independent church congregation.

Ian took the lead on our **kitchen renovation**, and not only did a great job of consultation and sourcing materials, but enjoyed it all! We are grateful for his enthusiasm and skill, and for other members of the congregation who managed the disruption and set up the new kitchen.

We continued to use the Open Space approach to discuss **membership and covenanting**. Related to these discussions, we held events: **workshops** on Ancient Wisdom for Tomorrow's Worship and relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians, the monthly spiritual discussion group, social gatherings over eclairs. Yvonne hosted our first **story sharing** event. Samara unwisely installed a temporary **prayer labyrinth** in our garden in June (it may reappear in summer!) We have continued our Advent and Lenten **retreats** and participation in the **ecumenical services** in our neighbourhood.

We have joined the **National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Sexual Abuse**. Our annual contribution means that if there were a finding of sexual abuse within our church, the redress owed to the survivor/s would come out of the Baptist Union Redress Support Fund as well as church funds. We hope that this scheme will support those who have been most harmed by the failures of the church in this area.

Nathan had two periods of extended annual and conference leave over the past year and the hosts are grateful to everyone who made the liturgy truly 'the work of the people', and who trusted and assisted us to respond to pastoral needs.

We encourage others to consider attending a Host meeting, and to be open to the possibility that you, like those of us currently in the role, might be called to be a Host for a season. We value transparency so that the congregation can have confidence in us as we seek to hear what God is calling us to, in big things and small, for this time and place.

Samara Pitt
September 2019

Nathan's Pastoral Report - AGM 15 September 2019

The past year has been rich, varied, stimulating, and at times complex and difficult.

As most of you know, at this time last year, I was thinking that my time at SYCBaps was coming to an end. Annual events like the church camp and the AGM were all feeling like they were probably my last. Although it seemed fairly clear in my own mind, I put in place a group of wise people from outside our church to undertake a process of discernment with me, to help me discern what God was calling me to. Somewhat to my own surprise, what emerged from that was a renewed sense of call to continue as pastor here at SYCBaps, but to open myself up to new things that God might be doing within me and through me here.

In response to that, I spent 13 days on a prayer retreat in the WA desert in January. I was very grateful to the church for not only encouraging me to do that, but supporting it by contributing to the costs and deeming it to be part of my work rather than part of my annual leave. The retreat was a powerful experience, but the fruits of it will take time to emerge and mature. Thirteen days of silence in such a tough but beautiful landscape slowed me right down and allowed lots of hidden things to surface for hardcore reflection and prayer. I faced up to the smartarse in me that sometimes overpowers and hurts people. I looked further into some of my own wounds and fears, and glimpsed how God can use them to shape me as a wiser man and a more compassionate pastor. I experienced some new life-giving approaches to prayer and meditation. And I caught some visions of new pathways that our church might explore.

How all that will reshape me and my pastoral ministry is still a work in progress (perhaps it always will be). Returning to the necessary routines of home and work has a powerful tug towards the status quo, and there are pathways that seem clear in the desert that are much harder to detect and follow amidst the demands of daily life back in the city. Nevertheless, I am aware of significant changes in the ways I respond to certain situations and people. The changes are not as big or dramatic as I imagined they might be, but perhaps that is more about inflated expectations than missed opportunity. One of the things I was reminded of in the desert that is probably very relevant now is that I need to relax and allow God to work in me at God's pace rather than trying to work super-hard at "helping" God to change me in ways that will look more impressive to myself and others.

Two practical things for our church that I pondered during my desert retreat are now things that the church, through its Host Group, have authorised me to work on, and I am slowly beaver away on at my desk. One is the possibility of an occasional year that departs from the *Revised Common Lectionary* and explores less familiar bible readings that are not part of the usual 3 year cycle. The other is a thorough revision of the prayers of our Sunday liturgy. A survey of the congregation revealed that there was no appetite for radical structural changes to the liturgy, but that there was agreement that a revision of the current texts could give more attention to themes that have become important parts of our life and thought, but which are not adequately reflected in the words we pray. I'm not sure how long it will take before I have revisions ready for everyone to see and consider, but the project is underway. Watch this space.

One of the things that I think is a growing strength of our church is our ability to listen well to one another. Our use of listening circles and Open Space events has, I believed, helped deepen this culture of respectful and attentive listening among us, and it is a wonderful thing for any church. One of the things that our Baptist heritage teaches us is that God does not only speak to us through the designated leaders or through the expected sources, but often through those who we might easily disregard, or those whose voice seems at odds with what everyone else was thinking. I think that our congregational culture and practices are enabling us to be more able to hear God's voice, whoever it might come to us through.

In finishing, here is the table of my average time use for the calendar year to date. The table is, as always, potentially a bit misleading. For example, the "professional development" figure is way up this year, but that is because that is where I listed my 13 days on retreat. It is not that I am doing

2019 Church Hours

	Total	Average
Attendance at Church Activities	97h 4m	3h 28m
Church Activity Work Extras	75h 42m	2h 42m
Sermon Preparation	179h 0m	6h 23m
Liturgy planning/writing	129h 54m	4h 38m
Strategic Planning & Design	26h 23m	0h 56m
Writing Project - Paraphrases	3h 46m	0h 8m
Writing Project - Other	9h 27m	0h 20m
Pastoral Visiting (incl. travel)	60h 52m	2h 10m
Pastoral Phone Calls & Emails	62h 26m	2h 14m
Communications & Correspondence	17h 57m	0h 38m
Administration Tasks	70h 33m	2h 31m
Meetings (Internal)	38h 41m	1h 23m
Meetings (representative)	5h 45m	0h 12m
BUV & BWA work	107h 52m	3h 51m
Emergency Relief Network admin	6h 47m	0h 15m
Professional Development	69h 20m	2h 28m
Reading and Research	3h 27m	0h 7m
Practical Tasks	23h 13m	0h 50m
Promotion and Publicity	0h 56m	0h 2m
Pastoral Rituals	3h 17m	0h 7m
Other	0h 0m	0h 0m
Average Total Hours (30h 24m paid)		35h 23m

more of it each week. Preparing a new sermon usually takes me more like 8-12 hours, but I don't preach every week, and sometimes I re-preach older sermons, so the weekly average is much lower.

I continue to feel honoured and privileged to be your pastor, and I look forward to what unfolds for us in the year to come.

Nathan Nettleton

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – South Yarra Community Baptist Church
- As at AGM on 15 September 2019

Over the last 12 months, our overall membership has reduced by three. We were advised of Steven Wong's Resignation from Membership at the AGM on Sunday 16 September 2018, and Daniel and Danielle Stott left the church on 9 July 2019.

2018 Statistics (AGM)

14 Females
 15 Males
 29 Members Total

2019 Statistics (AGM)

13 Females
 13 Males
 26 Members Total

These changes leave the following as the Membership Roll proposed for approval by the meeting:

Members Covenanted for the Current Year - 20

Eliz Cook	Merryl Gahan	John Sampson
Ian Cook	Paul Gahan	Sylvia Sandeman
Cameron Cutts	Gilbert Joyce	Shelley Taylor
Dom Filippi	Yvonne Joyce	Margaret Welsford
Liesl Filippi	Acacia Nettleton	Rita Wang
Dennis Fisher	Nathan Nettleton	Glennys Williams
John Fowler	Samara Pitt	

Members on the Reserve Roll- 6

Jill Edwards	Mark Moroney	John Stanshall
Paul Holdway	Alison Sampson	Robert Toseland

We currently have three Junior Catechumens:

Junior Catechumens

Lior Filippi	Tara Filippi	Sofia Stewart
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Proposal a) *That the Membership Roll be approved as presented, with the changes noted.*

Shelley Taylor, Membership Secretary, 10 September 2019

Financial Report for the Past Year

Created: 3/09/2019 9:59 PM

South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2018 To June 2019

ABN: 15 739 517 700

	This Year	Last Year	\$ Difference	% Difference
Income				
Offerings	\$38,467.45	\$40,682.65	-\$2,215.20	(5.4)%
Car Park Rental	\$26,124.99	\$26,222.43	-\$97.44	(0.4)%
Car Park Repairs refund	\$0.00	\$1,636.36	-\$1,636.36	(100.0)%
Hall Hire	\$42,165.86	\$39,197.16	\$2,968.70	7.6%
Manse Rental	\$18,750.00	\$18,768.00	-\$18.00	(0.1)%
Camp Surplus/deficit	\$205.45	-\$1,645.45	\$1,850.90	112.5%
Laughingbird Gifts	\$2,174.07	\$1,150.00	\$1,024.07	89.0%
Easter Sunday Cruise	-\$154.54	\$31.81	-\$186.35	(585.8)%
Interest Received	\$2,031.05	\$1,704.06	\$326.99	19.2%
Workshop	\$110.00	\$0.00	\$110.00	NA
Total Income	\$129,874.33	\$127,747.02	\$2,127.31	1.7%
Gross Profit	\$129,874.33	\$127,747.02	\$2,127.31	1.7%
Expenses				
Employment Expenses				
Wages & Salaries	\$66,059.07	\$61,373.03	\$4,686.04	7.6%
Superannuation	\$7,841.60	\$7,634.88	\$206.72	2.7%
Long Service Leave	\$1,113.42	\$1,024.86	\$88.56	8.6%
Workers' Compensation	\$7.30	\$273.20	-\$265.90	(97.3)%
Conference Expense- Travel	\$2,411.37	\$0.00	\$2,411.37	NA
Pastor Spiritual Direct./Retr.	\$1,080.00	\$0.00	\$1,080.00	NA
Insurance	\$3,901.93	\$3,793.37	\$108.56	2.9%
Gifts	\$7,495.00	\$4,500.00	\$2,995.00	66.6%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$0.00	\$100.00	-\$100.00	(100.0)%
Signs & Marketing	\$544.98	\$301.31	\$243.67	80.9%
Maintenance Church	\$3,576.97	\$2,567.41	\$1,009.56	39.3%
BUV Contributions	\$3,606.09	\$3,691.54	-\$85.45	(2.3)%
National Abuse Redress Scheme	\$564.10	\$0.00	\$564.10	NA
Cleaning	\$3,120.00	\$3,124.00	-\$4.00	(0.1)%
Utilities	\$4,250.53	\$4,277.85	-\$27.32	(0.6)%
Worship Resources	\$1,614.37	\$1,865.66	-\$251.29	(13.5)%
Office Expense	\$912.50	\$351.34	\$561.16	159.7%
BUV Dinners & functions	\$200.00	\$300.00	-\$100.00	(33.3)%
Kitchen Supplies	\$0.00	\$322.66	-\$322.66	(100.0)%
Website Expenses	\$304.67	\$144.95	\$159.72	110.2%
Property Taxes	\$1,006.32	\$968.96	\$37.36	3.9%
Total Expenses	\$109,610.22	\$96,615.02	\$12,995.20	13.5%
Operating Profit	\$20,264.11	\$31,132.00	-\$10,867.89	(34.9)%
Other Expenses				
Kitchen Refit	\$40,334.67	\$0.00	\$40,334.67	NA
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$20,070.56	\$31,132.00	-\$51,202.56	(164.5)%

Budget for the New Financial Year

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South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Profit & Loss [Budget Analysis]

July 2019 To June 2020

ABN: 15 739 517 700

	Budgeted
Income	
Offerings	\$38,467
Car Park Rental	\$26,125
Hall Hire	\$44,449
Laughingbird Gifts	\$720
Interest Received	\$1,440
Total Income	\$111,202
Gross Profit	\$111,202
Expenses	
Employment Expenses	
Wages & Salaries	\$67,164
Superannuation	\$8,017
Long Service Leave	\$1,140
Workers' Compensation	\$400
Insurance	\$4,000
Gifts	\$7,000
Maintenance Church	\$3,000
Computers	\$3,600
BUV Contributions	\$3,606
Cleaning	\$3,120
Utilities	\$4,251
Worship Resources	\$1,614
Office Expense	\$913
BUV Dinners & functions	\$300
Website Expenses	\$150
Property Taxes	\$1,050
Total Expenses	\$109,324
Operating Profit	\$1,878
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$1,878