



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 April 2020

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

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The **3 month lease on the manse has expired**, but Homeground is having difficulty in convincing the family to view the second long term rental that Homeground has found for them. The reasons for the family's reluctance are unclear, as the house is in a suburb they requested, is in very good condition and is a lower rental amount than they currently pay. The government moratorium on evictions is only for those who are financially unable to meet their rent which is not the case here. Homeground is taking the case to VCAT.
2. We hope to organise our next **story sharing event** after Easter, to be conducted over Zoom. If you are willing to share your story, please contact Samara.
3. The report on **Nathan's annual review** has been circulated. If you have any comment on the report, please contact a Host group member.
4. In property matters, the **solar installation** has been completed and we hope that the final inspection will happen this week, which will enable us to receive credits from our retailer for energy generated into the grid. We replaced two out of three toilet roll holders.
5. **Johnny our cleaner** is still cleaning the hall, but since there is less to do, will consider other tasks he may be able to do, such as weeding. Other congregation members who are keen to get out and about are welcome to do some solo garden work as well - contact John F to find out more.
6. The **Lenten book discussion** on In the Shelter by Pdraig O'Tuama will happen via Zoom on Sunday April 5 at 3pm as scheduled.
7. Araluen Lutheran campsite contacted us to ask if we wanted to **reschedule our camp booking** for later in the year since it is unlikely to be possible this August. Given the current uncertainty about timeframes, we have decided to cancel the camp for this year and rebook for August 2021.
8. This month our **worship service was initially modified** in response to the coronavirus restrictions, and then **transferred online** with a huge amount of work from Nathan. It has been greatly appreciated by current congregation members, former member scattered across the world, and a few newbies who found us online or by recommendation. We have managed to

maintain the participatory nature of the service, and many are also accessing the daily prayers as well. It has also been an important way to check in with how people are finding the changes to daily life. **If you want to invite others to our online Sunday service or daily prayers, please direct them to the website: <http://southyarrabaptist.church/worship-and-prayer-online/>.** Do not forward the zoom link directly or broadcast it publicly, as we want to avoid the possibility that someone will get hold of it and use it to disrupt the worship.

9. Francesco, a new Christian who has joined the online services and prayers will **begin the catechumenate** this Sunday.
10. All of the usual **Holy Week services** will proceed online, with the addition of expanded liturgies in the daily worship leading up to Maundy Thursday. Some people would like the **Maundy Thursday service start time to be brought forward to 5pm**, please contact Nathan asap if this is a problem for you.
11. Our **income has dropped significantly** due to hall hire cancellations which makes up about 40% of our budget. Congregational giving may also be affected by job losses. We will receive stimulus funds of at least \$10,000 from the government (which will be shared 50:50 between the South Yarra and Sanctuary congregations), and we have reserves, so if we cut all optional expenses we should break even over the next 12 months. We encourage congregation members who usually give their offering in cash to access the online offering details on our website at: <http://southyarrabaptist.church/members-guide/money/>

Dates for your diary:

- April 5: Lenten Book discussion, 3pm
- April 9: Maundy Thursday Service, 5pm tbc
- April 10: Good Friday service, 5pm
- April 11: Great Pascal Vigil, 8pm
- April 12: Resurrection morning liturgy, 10:30am tbc

Next meeting: 6 May 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom