



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

6 May 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 **manse tenants** have been offered a new rental organised through a different agency, and we are hopeful that they will accept it and leave the manse on 7 May, but there is still uncertainty about this.
2. We are seeking people who would like to host a **story sharing event** over Zoom - very easy to host and attend! The liturgy will be presented in the same format as our online prayers. If you are interested, please contact Samara.
3. We have **updated our Safe Church policy** with additions designed to satisfy the requirements of the BUV molestation insurance. The changes mostly have to do with screening and training of people being appointed to leadership positions, plus a template Safe Church concern form for those wishing to alert the hosts to potential situation of abuse. The hosts have provisionally adopted the amended policy to meet an interim deadline of the end of May, and will do more research and work before we bring the final document to the church for approval before the final deadline in September. Following further exploration, Shelley intends to join the new BUV Safe Church Facebook group to assist in keeping the Hosts up to date with information and requirements.
4. In **property matters**, we are still waiting to receive credits from our retailer for solar energy generated into the grid.
5. We have continued to have very positive feedback on our **online worship services and daily prayer**. Many have enjoyed our visiting preachers from all over the world. 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/>. Nathan will take time-in-lieu to cover his extra hours accrued during the transition to online worship, but now that daily prayers are running smoothly he does not count them as work time, except for the conversation time at the end where he is playing a pastoral role.
6. Our **church finances** have been affected by COVID-19. All income categories are down; expenses are as planned. We anticipate - with government help - a better than break-even situation for the next 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/>

7. Christ Church South Yarra are hosting the **ecumenical Ascension service on Thursday May 21** as a Youtube playlist with elements contributed by the 4 different congregations. We will contribute some intercessory prayers to this playlist, but also use some of the other parts in our own online Zoom service to be held at 7pm that day, which will replace the usual 5pm and 9:30pm prayers.
8. The **church anniversary service** is unlikely to be a meal around tables this year. We will discuss alternatives next meeting.
9. The **workshop on ‘the Australian Dream’ with Uncle Den** is being organised, details to be confirmed soon.
10. A **Catechumenate Study Group for Francesco** is being convened. Contact Nathan or Francesco if you are interested in being involved.
11. We have received a number of suggestions about **changes we could make as a church in the aftermath of the COVID-19 restrictions**, with many people saying they would like to continue daily prayers online, and find a way for those who are geographically distant or otherwise unable to attend the physical church service to still be able to participate in the eucharist, either on Sunday or at an alternative time. We encourage everyone to keep discussing this, and are making some initial inquiries about the possibility of making our physical gathering space into a ‘Zoom room’ that would enable a physical gathering to be accessible online as well.

Dates for your diary:

May 12 Discussion forum with Uncle Den 8pm
May 17 Book discussion online
May 21 Feast of Ascension with local churches: online playlist,
and Zoom service 7pm
May 22 BUV delegates cancelled
May 24 Working bee cancelled
May 31 Pentecost

Next meeting: 3 June 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom