



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

6 October 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. Dennis Fisher sent his apologies.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. Online prayers and services are still going well. We will return to having listening circle sermons every 6-8 weeks.
2. Our insurers have requested that churches complete a business continuity plan, of which the only relevant part for us is backing up online records in case of a data breach. We are taking additional steps to back up our financials and hall hire records.
3. **Nathan's regular work hours** have come down to what he is paid on average although the hours vary a lot depending on the week. He is due for another week of time in lieu.
4. We have become aware that a **clause in the BUV constitution states that the BUV automatically takes control over church properties where no activities have been taking place for 6 months**. While the BUV have assured us that they don't intend to take action based on this clause as it was not included with COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in mind, the clause as it stands applies to most Baptist properties and we are awaiting legal advice as to the implications which are currently not clear to us or the BUV!
5. Thanks to all who attended the **church AGM and listening circle**. While the online voting procedure worked fine, we have decided that future votes could be done with a show of hands which would feel less formal and distancing.
6. We have had two **story sharing events** with Uncle Den and John Sampson, thanks to both for sharing parts of their lives with us. Let Samara know if you would like to be next.
7. Our **ecumenical service for All Saints Day is on November 1**, and will be available for viewing from 7:00pm. It will be pre-recorded the day before at 9:30am. We are providing a bible reading, let Nathan know if you are willing and available to do this. We will also hold our own service at the usual time.
8. The **Christmas Eve service** will be held online and start at the earlier time of 8pm this year. We will still do a full carol service because we don't want to feel short-changed (especially since there will be few other opportunities for anyone to do communal carol singing this year). We

will encourage people to bring creative elements to the carol singing and to move around as needed throughout the service as it's a long one (but a good one!).

9. We discussed whether there is a need for a 'point person' aside from Nathan who can be a single go-to person for the congregation, and for the pastor. We decided that the host group functions well in this role at the moment and there is a freedom to having different people who can be approached for different issues.
10. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host meeting**, please let Nathan know if you wish to do so. The hosts may also invite a congregation member to attend a meeting if we feel they have insights into a particular issue on the agenda.

Dates for your diary:	October 16	BUV delegates gathering
	November 1	All Saints ecumenical service (pre-recorded)
	November 3	Host group meeting
	December 24	Christmas Eve service, <u>8pm</u>

Next meeting: Tuesday 3 November 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom