



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

6 October 2022

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, Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Dennis Fisher, Samara Pitt, Liesl Filippi and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. **Nathan's work hours** for the past 4 weeks have hit the target, for the second time in ages! This was helped by several days off to go skiing, and some visiting preachers.
2. Nathan has drafted a policy in response to the **new Child Safe Standards** which extends our current Safe Church policy. This will be reviewed by the host group again before being brought to the congregation for feedback and formal adoption.
3. Starting Monday, our **church building** is being hired by the Victoria Electoral Commission as a regional centre for the Victorian State election in November. They have exclusive access for nine weeks. We will still have access to the prayer chapel and men's toilets.
4. The BUV Gathering - which will include a vote on constitutional changes - is coming up later in October. A group of concerned churches are contacting as many BUV churches as they could find contact details for to communicate why they think there should be a 'no' vote on the constitutional changes. Separately, the fledgling Open Baptists Association is hosting a short Open Space session online on October 15 to discuss questions of identity and culture for the new group - all welcome.
5. After the church camp discussion on **attracting new people** to our congregation, Nathan will circulate some key questions about identity for feedback from the congregation, which might help us take the next steps. Once we receive this, we will also be asking for volunteers to convene a working group to keep working this through.
6. We held our **AGM and listening circle on the Uluru Statement from the Heart** which was a great opportunity to introduce and begin reflecting on this key document for the upcoming referendum. AGM minutes will be circulated soon for feedback - they will be formally approved at the next AGM.
7. We have started to plan the **annual review of the pastor**, which was postponed during the Covid lockdown period so that we could review this season in its entirety. We will need to create some new questions for these specific circumstances, so we expect that the review will not take place before February 2023.

8. We have started to discuss **ideas for future church camps** given that our usual venue is no longer available to us, and falling attendance has threatened its viability. We are asking, what are the main purposes of church camp? Are there other ways we could achieve these purposes? Some current ideas are: picking a location with some options for shared activities and meeting places, and people book their own accommodation to suit their needs. Contacting a local church to see if we could use their hall/venue for gathering in. Organising a combined camp with other churches. For now, we plan to keep the weekend in our annual calendar at least for a virtual camp if nothing is organised in person.
9. 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 15	Open Space on Forging a new Baptist Identity, 10am on Zoom (RSVP required)
October 22	Picnic at Wattle Park (Yvonne & Gilbert organising)
November 3	Host meeting, 7pm