



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

5 October 2023

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 Nathan Nettleton, Ian Cook, Eliz Cook, Liesl Filippi, Dennis Fisher (late), Samara Pitt (late), Shelley Taylor, and Ruth Rawlings (observer for part of the meeting)

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. Nathan's Work Load

Nathan worked excessive hours in the four week's prior to his leave, but his hours in the six weeks since his return have been the best for years - very close to what they should be.

2. Church Building Maintenance

Ian has got the church's audio system working much better, but we need to find a technician for the projector system which is not fully functional at present. The damaged window in the hall is being replaced with laminated glass (as per new regulations) at a cost of \$880.

3. Recent Activities

The Listening Circle on current experience and feelings about online worship, 3 1/2 years on, was well attended. We heard that people find the liturgy great and the Zoom system convenient, but missing the personal interaction we used to have. Few have utilised the ability to invite people to share on screen in our homes. Revisiting the question of trying to create a hybrid service is a possibility. We want to encourage ongoing conversation and continue to listen to one another about possibilities.

4. Church Camp (13-15 October)

We have 18 people registered to attend, and plans seem to be coming together well. The main Sunday liturgy will be physically gathered at camp and held in conjunction with the Aireys Inlet Uniting Church. For those not at camp, the daily prayer liturgies will continue as normal, and there will be a special Sunday Vespers liturgy at 5pm on the Sunday.

5. Covid-safe policy for camp

We have left unchanged the recommendation that people coming to camp do at least two of the following three things: 1) be fully vaccinated; 2) take RAT tests prior to coming to camp; and 3) wear a mask when indoors with others, unless eating. It is an honesty system: nobody will be policing compliance.

6. Future of the Surrey Road property

We agreed that we cannot afford to go much longer without making a decision about the long term future use of the church property, because if we do nothing, we are likely to become liable

for land tax bills that would quickly bankrupt us. Since there does not seem to be any emerging vision or energy in the congregation for a creative use of the property, we almost certainly need to relinquish it. The most feasible options are to either invite another body (Baptcare?) who have a use for it to demolish and redevelop it for their purposes, or to sell it. We will begin to explore these options more fully.

7. Alison's Employment

After feedback, we accepted that we couldn't extend Alison's temporary pastoral role without doing a proper review of the needs of the congregation and the match to what Alison brings to us. It was concluded that this could not be justified for what would be only a short-term role, and therefore we won't be offering her a further role at present.

8. 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 13-15	Church camp, Aireys Inlet
October 27-29	Open Baptists Inaugural Gathering in Canberra (Nathan attending)
Wednesday 1 Nov	All Saints Day liturgy, 7:00pm
Thursday 2 Nov	Host Group meeting, 7pm