



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

4 April 2024

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, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt, Nathan Nettleton and Uncle Dennis Fisher (from 7:30pm).

Summary of the Decisions and Questions.

1. Our recent congregational vote was strongly supportive of the proposal to seek **affiliation with the Open Baptists** (30 votes in favour, none opposed, 5 undecided but okay with it going ahead). However, two people indicated that they didn't believe the congregation was ready to make this decision. We can hold back on implementing the decision without any problems. The first Open Baptists meeting that could vote on accepting us is on May 25th, so we will allow until our May Hosts' meeting for any further discussion that may emerge. Please share your thoughts on the email list, or feel free to organise an in-person gathering or Zoom meeting to discuss.
2. In response to feedback last year about the length of the **Paschal Vigil service**, we began at 7:30pm and had a half hour intermission partway through. We received mostly positive feedback about these changes although one person suggested the break could be shorter. One suggestion was that we have our usual 'service is starting' music to mark the end of the intermission period so people know we are regathering. Another idea is to have a breakout room that plays music throughout the intermission period to keep the worshipful atmosphere going even if practical tasks have to be performed during this time.
3. We had our **Resurrection Brunch gathering** at Valley Reserve in Mount Waverley which was a lovely bush venue, and those who attended enjoyed the BBQ, the ice cream from Acacia, the soccer, the multiple hot cross buns, the dogs and each other in general! Thanks to Merryl for the suggestion.
4. **The manse** will be leased again by Baptcare for a different program, and they have taken on responsibility for securing the property after it was used by a squatter who did some damage during its vacancy period.
5. Nathan, Ian Cook, Rob Davis and John Fowler met with Daniel Bullock and Debbie Uy from the BUV **about our property**. As expected, we confirmed that if the property was sold, the BUV would hold the proceeds in trust, and they could only be used for other property transactions. They will get back to us regarding whether interest earned on the investment of such funds can be used by the church for normal operating expenses. They would be keen to see whether there might be another congregation or a church plant interested in occupying the property before giving approval for a housing redevelopment. Beyond that, they had done little

homework, but promised to give us a fuller response before long. Baptcare Affordable Housing have not yet got back to us about whether they would be interested in our property. If you are interested in being involved in future discussions about the future of our property, please let Nathan know.

6. 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:

Thursday May 9th	Ascension service, 7pm
*Thursday May 16th	Host meeting (note change of date)
Friday May 24th	BUV Members Dinner
Sunday May 28th	Pentecost liturgy, 5pm