



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

6 June 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 Uncle Dennis Fisher, Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions.

1. Nathan has written journal article about our congregation's **experience of online worship** - this will be circulated once it is published.
2. We are now an affiliated church of the **Open Baptists Association** and a founding member church alongside Canberra Baptist Church.
3. A new lease for **the manse** has been signed with Baptcare and tenants will move in soon. We are completing some repairs on gas appliances in preparation for tenants moving in.
4. We have heard lots of positive feedback about the **Pentecost service**, it's a lot of fun, and thanks to everyone who added to the many tongues we heard!
5. We have heard nothing back from **Daniel Bullock and Debbie Uy from the BUV** regarding our options for the property. However they had indicated that they would prefer another congregation to use the property rather than have it redeveloped or sold.
6. A possibility for **leasing our property to another congregation** has arisen from a chance conversation after the recent BUV gathering. It is the [Earthen Vessels Church](#) (EVC) which currently meets at the Box Hill Baptist Church and offers bilingual services in English and Vietnamese. It began in Kew in 1981, and was known as the Vietnamese Kew Baptist Church, until its move to Box Hill in 2021. They are looking to move again. Their pastor, Khoi Doan, has made an appointment to meet Nathan at the church for a tour inside and further discussion.
7. With tonight's meeting, **Samara Pitt concludes nine years of outstanding service on the Host Group**. Her impact on the group goes back further than that, because it was Samara who first articulated the concept of the Host Group and the compelling metaphor that underpinned it. For much of her time on the Host Group, Samara has taken the minutes and produced the monthly and annual reports of our decisions and activities, and she has managed to do that while still being an active contributor to the conversations. Her participation has always been characterised by exemplary grace, dependability, generosity, wisdom, insight, compassion, thoughtfulness, creativity and the ability to ask really good questions. Her absence from Host Group meetings for the foreseeable future will be sorely felt by the rest of the group, but we recognise that even her stepping aside, we see two of Samara's great strengths: her ability to be

unfailingly honest and clear about what she can and can't, will and won't, bring to the table; and her enthusiasm for creating space that encourages others to step up and share their gifts too. We are very glad that she intends to continue as part of our congregation, and we wish her every blessing in the other places where she shares her leadership gifts.

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:

Sunday 23 June	Church Anniversary and Covenanting Service
Thursday 4 July	Host meeting, 7pm
11-13 October	Church Camp, Airey's Inlet