



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host

Group Meeting

3 April 2019

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 were Nathan Nettleton, Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Ian Cook and Samara Pitt.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The **kitchen renovation** is almost complete, the total cost will come in at a bit over \$30,000. Thanks to Ian for his work and Sylvia, John Fowler and Eliz for setting it all up. Feel free to visit and say 'ooh' and 'ahh' appreciatively. And don't even **think** of trying to get away with storing anything on the benches, *Ian is watching...*
2. Our **Statement of Understanding with Alison Sampson at Sanctuary** has expired, so we are updating it to reflect our changing relationship with her as pastor there.
3. We had our annual **Lenten Retreat** this month with a small group who appreciated the time at the Community Church of St Luke with Sr Miriam and Mark Bailey from the Transfiguration Community.
4. We had a **proposal that we host a candidates forum** before the upcoming federal election, with the event to be jointly convened by local churches, giving us an opportunity to hear from local candidates on issues that we care about. We think this could be a good idea but would require more preparation time than we are likely to have before this election. If you are interested in researching or helping with an event like this in the future, please let Daniel know.
5. **Nathan is taking 6 weeks leave in July/August** - 1 week of conference leave and 1 week of work time to attend the BWA study commission meetings in the Bahamas from 8-12 July, and the *Societas Liturgica* Congress and *English Language Liturgical Consultation* meeting in England from 5-13 August. In between he will take 4 weeks of his accrued annual leave to visit Cuba and Mexico (including visits to some like-minded Baptist churches in both countries) and in Scotland, plus a 3 day break in India on the way home.
6. The **Lenten book discussion** will be on Sunday April 14 (Palm Sunday) at 3pm at the church, hosted by Sylvia.
7. The **Maundy Thursday meal at St Martin's has been cancelled** for this year. Our service will begin at 8pm.
8. For our **church anniversary service on June 23**, we will have a potluck meal - Samara will coordinate your delicious contributions! More details closer to the event. Nathan will also

circulate something on how we will approach covenanting this year in light of our 2018 Open Space discussions on this topic.

9. To begin the process of **revising our liturgy**, Nathan will circulate a short survey to get an idea of specific things that people would like to keep or change or add.
10. In our covenanting/membership discussions, we had the idea of holding some **one-off story sharing events** in people's homes or other spaces outside church where the host can share a little of their experiences of day-to-day life and faith, and guests can reflect and ask questions and get to know each other and how God has moved in our ordinary everyday lives. Samara has worked on a how-to guide for hosting a story sharing event and would love to work with you to give it a go - the more the merrier! Please let her know if you'd like to hear more.

Dates for your diary:	April 14	Lenten book discussion Palm Sunday
	April 18	Maundy Thursday service 8pm
	April 19	Good Friday service 5pm
	April 20	Great Paschal Vigil 8pm
	April 21	Herring Island boat trip, Easter breakfast 10am
	May 1	Host meeting
	May 5	Afternoon social activity tbc
	May 19	Discernment forum tbc
	May 24	Delegates dinner at BUV
	May 30	(Thur) Ecumenical service, Christ Church 7pm

Next meeting: 1 May 2019, 7:30pm, Nathan's place