



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 May 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 done! Some dishwasher gremlins should hopefully be sorted out now, and we're getting used to the new set up. Thanks again to the workers - Ian, Eliz, John F and Sylvia for all their efforts!
2. Oxfam ran a **candidates forum** at the church on 1 May - we look forward to reports about this.
3. **Nathan is taking 6 weeks conference and annual leave in July/August** - dates are now confirmed as Sunday 7 July to Saturday 17 August.
4. This month we had the **Lenten book discussion and Holy Week services** - thanks to everyone who participated in this great festival of our year!
5. We have approved an updated version of **Nathan's Statement of Understanding** which had expired, with a few minor changes including the increase in his hours made during the last 5 years.
6. 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.
7. Nathan will send around a **proposed membership covenant** for our covenanting service on June 23 which incorporates changes based on our 2018 Open Space discussions on this topic. In particular, it enables people to choose their own particular commitments to our covenant areas and share these with others in the congregation. We will use our **discernment forum on May 19 at 2:30pm** to discuss this proposal.
8. We hope to kick off our first **story sharing events** very soon! These one-off events in people's homes or other spaces outside church are an opportunity to share and hear about someone's experiences of day-to-day life and faith. If you would like to host an event, or if you would like to hear from somebody else, give them a nudge and let Samara know!
9. The **prayer labyrinth** will be installed in the church garden this week - hopefully! There will be a flyer with some info on ways to use the labyrinth, so give it a go!

Dates for your diary:

May 19

Discernment forum on covenant, 2:30pm

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| May 24 | Delegates dinner at BUV |
| May 30 | (Thur) Ecumenical service, Christ Church 7pm |
| June 9 | Pentecost |
| June 23 | Anniversary dinner, and covenanting service |
| June 30 | Discernment workshop tbc |

Next meeting: 5 June 2019, 7:30pm, Nathan's place