



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

## *Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting*

*7 November 2018*

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](mailto: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. There was a question raised about whether Nathan should have had to use his annual leave time to finish his chapter on **Baptist Spirituality** for the forthcoming book on Protestant Spiritual Traditions. We revisited this with Nathan and confirmed that, as this writing work was Nathan's personal decision, it was most appropriate that he do it in his own time (Nathan is fine with this).
2. Our church gives away 10% of its facilities hire income each year. We choose four recipients, one overseas, one national, one in Melbourne, and one supporting asylum seekers. The AGM approved two recipients and delegated the task of finalising the other two to the Host Group. For our new **annual giving recipients**, we have decided to give to RISE (asylum seeker and refugee advocacy group), and fund the purchase of a milking cow and some bamboo planting with the Healing Garden in Nagaland.
3. We have confirmed the decision that our church should opt in to the **National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse** as part of the participating group in the Baptist Union of Victoria, and have authorised Nathan to sign the declaration to this effect on our behalf. We are now going ahead with joining up. Our church's contribution this year will be \$564.10.
4. Ian has circulated a short survey for feedback on final details for the **kitchen renovation**, feedback welcome.
5. Now that we have air conditioning in the church, the cost/benefit of **installing solar panels** has changed. A \$7000 investment would be recouped in just over five years (it was previously more than ten years). We approve installation of a 6kw system, which will substantially cover our usage across spring, summer and autumn based on the past year's readings.
6. We were delighted to support **Alison as she was ordained** this month, and to celebrate with a range of congregation members, friends and family at the after-party! We congratulate her on this significant recognition of her call to pastoral ministry, and the strength and passion of what she offers her congregation and the wider church and community.
7. The **'Connecting Stories' conference** for LGBTIQ+ Christians and allies was a significant

event for participants, and great place to learn and connect. Everyone appreciated the ice-cream on our sponsor table, and we sold several of Paul Gahan's books!

8. We have received some feedback and alternative **proposals regarding our membership and covenanting** structures. We will explore these, and continue to welcome further ideas.
9. A first draft of **church activities calendar for 2019** is being circulated for your information, feedback and suggestions.

10. <b>Dates for your diary:</b>	November 11	Ancient Wisdom workshop, 12:30pm
	November 18	Working bee, 2pm
	December 3	Advent Retreat Day
	December 24	Christmas Eve service, 9pm
	January 6	Epiphany ecumenical service, 5pm

**Next meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 7:30pm