



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host

Group Meeting

7 December 2016

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

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. We have provisionally adopted a **“Safe Church – Rights and Responsibilities”** policy to ensure that we meet the January 1 deadline for compliance with the new Child Safe standards. Nathan will circulate the policy to the congregation for feedback, and we will aim to present a revised and improved version for formal adoption at a February congregational meeting.
2. The congregation voted via online ballot to approve the **installation of air conditioning** for the church hall (16 for and 1 against). The electrician has been contacted for installation dates.
3. **Licence agreements for the carpark lease** to MIA, and for passenger vehicle access through our property to the neighbouring property at 11 Cromwell Road have been negotiated for the next 5 years and will be sent to the BUV for execution.
4. Nathan contributed to **Andrew Woff’s memory book** on behalf of the congregation. Andrew Woff was our regional minister in the past and has just concluded at the BUV after 16+ years.
5. We had positive feedback on directed input and time alone at the **Advent retreat**, and the venue worked well.
6. John B was **sleeping in the church toilets**, preventing access. After three warnings the toilets have now been locked again and he appears to have moved on.
7. **Open Space actions** have been progressing with contemplative prayer in the chapel on Wednesday evenings (Peter), a discussion on connecting with the LGBTIQ community (George), a group reading ‘Talking to my Country’ (Margie), and in the same spirit, a proposed art exhibition (Acacia). If you want to part of any of these actions, or have further ideas of your own, we encourage you to contact the appropriate people and get the ball rolling!
8. Sylvia has requested volunteers to organise and contribute to **supper after the Christmas Eve service**. If you can help out, please let her know.

9. We are seeking ideas for some **common reading material next Lent** for the congregation. Please send suggestions to Nathan.
10. We incorporated some additions (indicated in red) to the draft **host group covenant** based on feedback. The host group will continue to reflect on the covenant in future meetings.

Host group covenant (draft)

Through our prayerful discernment and the affirmation of the congregation, we believe that God has called us together to host the congregational life, prayer and ministry of South Yarra Community Baptist Church as its Host Group. To this end, we make the following agreements with one another:

To develop ourselves as prayerful people so that we can seek the will of the Lord in all our activities.

To trust the Spirit of God to make God's will known to us, and to trust each other to work together in good faith.

To act with love and respect towards each member of the group, with all our skills, strengths and weaknesses.

To be actively present in host and congregational gatherings, modelling a pattern of full participation in the life, prayer and ministry of the church.

*To tend to the physical, **emotional** and spiritual environment of the church.*

To encourage the congregation in their discernment of visions, dreams and the undertaking of tasks.

To foster practices of care and safety which enable the congregation to share problems and concerns.

To be transparent in all our actions - except where confidentiality or protection of privacy is required.

To carry out our responsibilities and tasks with diligence and close collaboration with each other, communicating regularly; and to be willing to be graciously called into account if we fail to meet our agreed commitments.

To support each other, as sisters and brothers in God's family, to address grievances promptly and respectfully, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation across anything that divides us.

To be aware of, promote, and comply with all aspects of the church's "Safe Church – Rights and Responsibilities" policy.

We stand together in this covenant, acknowledging that there will be times when we will stumble as we struggle with ourselves, each other and our calling, and knowing that all our efforts are dependent on the guidance, love and grace of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ.

Next meeting: Wednesday 1st February 2017, 7:30pm at Nathan's place