



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

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

### *5 February 2020*

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

### **Summary of the Decisions and Questions**

1. A **family moved into the manse** shortly before Christmas and really appreciated it. They have now been approved for long term housing and will move out on February 19. Launch Housing will seek another family to move in, and will cover the rent for the remainder of the 3 month lease or until new tenants move in.
2. The **workshop on January 26 with Uncle Den** was well attended and very much appreciated by those who came, as we discussed ways in which the 10 commandments shed light on some of the impacts of colonisation in Australia.
3. We will hold a **workshop on “Being African in Australia”** from 2:30pm on Sunday 16 February. With a recent and welcome influx of Africans into our congregation, this workshop will be an opportunity to hear from them about what it is like to be an African in our church and in this country, and how we might better understand and respond to the cultural differences that they are dealing with. The workshop will take the form of a panel discussion facilitated by the pastor. Tseyi, Ugo, Nyaluth, Jordan and Rose have agreed to be on the panel, and Hisham is a maybe.
4. Responses for **Nathan’s annual review** have been received, and we now await the final report.
5. Margie Welsford is having a **story sharing event** at her house on Monday 10 February at 7:30pm. If you would like to host an event this year, please get in touch with Samara - she is seeking a keen storyteller for March!
6. The **church was burgled** over Christmas, and the office computer stolen, but it has now been replaced and no files were lost. We now have a digital keypad for the main church entrance, as well as a key safe. Thanks to Ian and Eliz for their work on fixing doors and replacing locks in the aftermath.
7. In property matters, the **reverse cycle air conditioner and kitchen exhaust fan** has been installed, **the roof rust treatment** has been done and the **solar installation** is in the hands of the installers, **manse repairs** on the gutter and gate are complete and new **recycling bins** for the kitchen are in progress.

8. John F has been maintaining the **church garden** solo over summer during YarZar's absence for other work, thanks John!
9. In Lent (starting Feb 26) we will **simplify our supper** after church with a meal of only soup, bread and water. Lent is a time where we are invited to focus on God, and to give up some of the everyday luxuries that we can become overly dependent upon. In a time of climate crisis, the importance of taking only what we need is being highlighted, and this version of the ancient discipline of fasting can reintroduce us to good hunger, and joy and thankfulness for what is provided. **We are asking people who are not on the regular soup roster to cook a soup once during this 6 week Lent period**, there will be 12 slots in total. If you can help, please contact Samara as soon as possible to organise dates.
10. The **Lenten Retreat Day** is March 1st. Further details to come. We are considering In the Shelter by Padraig O'Tuama for our Lenten reading but may have difficulty finding enough hard copies in time - stay tuned!
11. We will not make any further changes to the **membership and covenanting process** for this year, as Nathan does not have time to do this in the same year as preparing the new lectionary readings and revised Sunday liturgy. (This means that once again you are encouraged to personalise the Covenant, but whether you choose to or not, to symbolise your commitment you need to sign a copy and hand it in on Covenanting night.)

**Dates for your diary:**

- Feb 16: Workshop - "Being African in Australia"
- Feb 26: Ash Wednesday
- Mar 1: Lenten retreat day
- Mar 4: Host Group Meeting
- April 1: Host Group Meeting
- April 5: Lenten Book discussion
- April 9: Maundy Thursday Service
- April 10: Good Friday service
- April 11: Great Pascal Vigil
- April 12: Herring Island Boat boat trip

Next meeting: 4 March 2020, 7:30pm, Nathan's place