



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

4 March 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

Those in attendance at the recent meeting were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Ian Cook and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The **family who have been living in the manse** have decided to continue to the end of their 3 month lease.
2. **Suzanne Peart is becoming a member** of this congregation with the reaffirmation of her baptism as part of our Paschal services. This has been affirmed by the congregation at two previous meetings and will proceed this year - hooray!
3. Details for our next **story sharing event** are yet to be confirmed - thanks to Margie Welsford for sharing her story with us last month! If you are willing to share your story later this year, please speak to Samara.
4. Files on the **church computer** are in the process of being backed up in case of future computer thefts or other calamities!
5. The report on **Nathan's annual review** will be circulated shortly. We had a record number of responses this year, thanks to all who took the time to support Nathan's ministry in this way.
6. In property matters, the **solar installation** has been completed and we await a final inspection before we are able to receive any credits from our retailer for energy generated into the grid. New **recycling bins** for the kitchen are in progress but have been delayed by new council requirements that recycling be further sorted.
7. John F has requested a **church garden working bee** to deal with prodigious weed growth over summer, details to be announced.
8. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to contribute to our **simple soup and bread roster for Lent**. We continue to appreciate hands-on-deck in the kitchen for clean up, which is much quicker! If you wanted to cook a soup and haven't let Samara know, please do so that we can relieve someone who is already doing two.
9. The **Workshop on Being African in Australia** was well received and appreciated by all participants. Nathan led a simple **Lenten Retreat Day** at St Luke's Abbotsford chapel which

was enjoyed by those who attended, we may decide to do some more in-house leadership for retreat days in future.

10. In preparation for a possible coronavirus pandemic, we have discussed some ways to **manage infection risks** (which also applies for other more common infections such as the flu). From this Sunday, in place of shaking hands when we pass the peace, we invite people to bow to each other (as we do in other areas of the service to acknowledge the divine image in each other and the Word) or alternatively to use the Auslan signs for 'Peace be with you' if we can find an accurate translation. We are also considering some options for how we share the communion bread. As toilet paper seems to be going missing at an even faster rate than previously, we will also trial the installation of a mega roll in metal dispenser in the men's toilet.
11. The **Lenten book discussion** of In the Shelter by Padraig O'Tuama will be led by Sylvia on Sunday April 5, starting at 3:00pm.

Dates for your diary:

- 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: 1 April 2020, 7:30pm, Nathan's place