



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host

Group Meeting

3 June 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 via Zoom were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Ian Cook and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The **manse tenants** have refused offers of four different properties to move into. Homeground is preparing for another VCAT hearing.
2. Francesco has offered to host the next **story sharing event** - hooray! It will be on Zoom, although if anyone would like to attend in person, contact Francesco to work out how many people he can fit with physical distancing in his apartment! Sunday afternoon is looking like the most likely time, details tbc.
3. We have updated our **Safe Church policy** with additions designed to satisfy the requirements of the BUV molestation insurance. The hosts have provisionally adopted the amended policy and will circulate it to the congregation for any feedback before we take a formal vote to approve it at our AGM.
4. In **property matters**, we are now starting to receive credits from our retailer for solar energy generated into the grid. The church hot water service broke and was repaired at great expense!
5. We continue to have very positive feedback on our **online worship services and daily prayer**. We continue to hear from visiting preachers from all over the world (all of whom are offered our usual honorarium). We also had an amazing 30 languages heard in our **Pentecost service**, thanks everyone who contributed. If you want to invite others to our online Sunday service or daily prayers, please direct them to the website: <http://southyarrabaptist.church/worship-and-prayer-online/>.
6. Nathan has struggled to reduce his hours and has not been able to take time in lieu so far. He is reluctant to miss out on daily prayers, and is working on some ways to make the online service preparation more streamlined. He has a week's leave booked in early July. We are seeking people willing to learn how to host the daily prayers, to give him some more flexibility.
7. Christ Church South Yarra provided a playlist of content for the **ecumenical Ascension service** and we also held our own online Zoom service using some of the elements of the combined service. The **workshop on 'the Australian Dream' with Uncle Den** was much appreciated as a further insight into how racism is experienced by Aboriginal people in this country. Also the Lenten book discussion on 'In the Shelter' was held over Zoom with many stories prompted.

8. The **church anniversary service** which is usually held around a meal and includes our annual covenanting rite will be postponed. We will amend the covenant to reflect our current circumstances, and incorporate the rite into our online service. A celebratory meal will be postponed until we can safely gather to eat together again.
9. The **church storeroom** still needs a good clear out, but we do not have energy to address this at the moment (sorry John F!)
10. We have continued to wonder and talk about **changes we could make as a church in the aftermath of the COVID-19 restrictions**. We have decided to postpone any definite decisions about this until at least August. This will enable the conversations to unfold without a sense of time pressure, and will also relieve Nathan of the immediate pressure and workload of changing how we gather when we have just settled into a good rhythm of online service and daily prayer. We encourage people who want to be involved in the discussions to share your thoughts, and one of the best places to keep in touch currently is by attending some of the daily prayers during the week, where a lot of sharing is happening in the discussion times afterwards.

Dates for your diary: July 1 Host meeting via Zoom
 July 5 Discernment meeting or workshop tbc

Next meeting: 1 July 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom