



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 July 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** are currently actively looking for a private rental.
2. Sylvia has offered to host the next **story sharing event** - hooray! It will be on Zoom on Sunday 19 July at 2:30pm. All welcome!
3. In **property matters**, we are now starting to receive hall hire bookings again. Hall hirers are required to clean/sanitise the areas they are using.
4. We continue to have very positive feedback on our **online worship services and daily prayer**. If you have people who you think might be good to invite as a **visiting preacher**, especially anyone who would not usually be able to offer this due to geographic distance, we encourage you to approach them and coordinate potential dates with Nathan. We currently have slots in early August to fill.
5. **Nathan's work hours** continue to be high due to having to reinvent pretty much every system we use! He anticipates that this will eventually decrease. Thanks to those who have taken on the hosting of daily prayers, we encourage others outside of the host group to also learn how to do this so we can take this task permanently off Nathan's list. He will take leave from 6-11 July, and will plan another week's leave within the following 6 weeks. The host group will go through Nathan's tasks and see whether other changes can be made.
6. The **church covenanting rite** will be held this Sunday 5 July.
7. The recent controversy about **commenting on sermons** on our website and Facebook raised (at a minimum!) two things to consider where the host group would like your contribution.
 1. For those who don't feel comfortable posting comments on the website or Facebook, are there alternative ways that we could enable individuals to **communicate appreciation to visiting preachers** (aside from the financial honorarium or gifts that the church offers on our behalf)? *If you have suggestions, are they something you would be willing and likely to regularly do yourself?*

2. If one of the potential functions of comments on Facebook/website is to give outsiders an **insight into the life and engagement of our congregation**, are you someone who would like to discuss the content and application of the sermon, and if so, how could this be done and possibly shared or made available to those outside our congregation? If you have suggestions, *are they something you would be willing and likely to do yourself?*

At this stage, the comments section on the website will remain open as we believe it communicates a willingness to be open to receiving feedback from those who access our website even if no comments are posted, but there is no pressure to comment.

8. We think that **daily prayers online** should continue after the gathering restriction period ends, but that responsibility should increasingly move to people outside the host group. If the workload reverts to the host group, we may need to reduce the number of daily prayer times offered.
9. We have continued to wonder and talk about **changes we could make as a church in the aftermath of the COVID-19 restrictions**. We will consider whether to run an open space event to discuss this in person or via Zoom closer to the event, which will not occur before August.

Dates for your diary:

July 5	Church anniversary and covenanting rite
July 19	Story sharing event, 2:30pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 4 August 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom