



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 September 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, Dennis Fisher and Nathan Nettleton. Liesl Filippi joined from 8:30pm - 9:45pm.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. A VCAT hearing has concluded that the manse **tenants** are required to leave, but they will not be evicted during current lockdown restrictions.
2. Uncle Den has offered to host the next **story sharing event** on Sunday September 6 at 1pm. Bring your lunch and join us on Zoom for a relaxed discussion. John Sampson will be sharing his story on Saturday October 3.
3. As a long run of **visiting preachers** comes to an end, Nathan will be preaching more over the coming months. If you have people who you would like to invite to preach for us, let Nathan know.
4. **Nathan's regular work hours** have come down to what he is paid for over the past couple of weeks. He will probably take another week's leave during September.
5. The **church finances** are looking ok. Offerings are down slightly but we have received several government payments in the past period that have offset the loss of income from hall hire. The manse will remain exempt from Council rates.
6. The **ecumenical service** for the Feast of the Transfiguration was short and sweet! There was one person who attended who was not known to any of the congregations, and who made inappropriate chat conversation with one of the attendees. This has been reported to the police, and is a reminder of why we use password protection for our Zoom meetings.
7. Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the **Open Space event to discuss what we are learning through this time of disruption about what really matters for the life, prayer and ministry of our church**. A couple of actions came out of it, and the discussions will continue.
8. Thanks to everyone's contribution to the discernment about whether we should **nominate Nathan for a position on the BUV Council**. The host group has decided (after much discussion) that we will not nominate him at this time. It feels like it is not the right time, given uncertainty about the changes we will need to make coming out of the pandemic period. The discussions have raised **the need for administrative tasks currently done by Nathan and the Host Group to be spread more evenly across the congregation**. We will continue to pursue

this as it relates to the ongoing health and viability of this congregation. We are grateful for the offers already received from congregation members willing to learn how to do those tasks. We are open to nominating Nathan in the future should the option arise.

9. Our **AGM** will happen at 1pm on Sunday September 20. It will include a **listening circle** about the future implications of our growing number of remote congregation members. Reports will be circulated one week prior to the meeting.
10. We have decided to **cancel the Advent Retreat** for this year.
11. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host meeting**, please let Nathan know if you wish to do so. The hosts may also invite a congregation member to attend a meeting if we feel they have insights into a particular issue on the agenda.

Dates for your diary:	September 6, 1pm	Story sharing with Uncle Den
	September 20, 1pm	AGM
	October 3	Story sharing with John Sampson
	October 6	Host meeting
	October 16	BUV delegates gathering

Next meeting: Tuesday 6 October 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom