



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

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

### *3 November 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 via Zoom were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Dennis Fisher, Ian Cook and Nathan Nettleton.

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

1. **Nathan's regular work hours** continue to average out to what he is paid for, although the hours still vary a lot depending on the week. He is planning another week of leave in early December.
2. **Church camp** has been booked for August next year. We recognise that some people may not feel comfortable to attend due to Covid, but we also know that a physical gathering might be important for a dispersed community.
3. John Fowler let us know that he needs to step back from his intention to take over the **church treasurer role**, it was an overcommitment that he realised was unwise! We thank him for his keenness to contribute and thank him for all the other valuable tasks he does for the church, particularly as property caretaker at this time.
4. At the **BUV members meeting**, a number of members were frustrated with the non-consultative structure of the online meeting. Nathan may be involved in setting up an Open Space conversation to discuss one of the items under discussion, the Clendinning report about BUV intervention in small churches.
5. The **ecumenical service for All Saints Day** was posted online, we were glad that we also decided to hold our own more participatory service.
6. We have developed a **Covid safe plan** as we reopen our building to hall hirers. This will be updated when we return to the building for other church-related activities. A copy is attached below.
7. There have been a number of **squatters sleeping outside the church** during the lockdown period. They have been approached a number of times by Launch Housing to offer accommodation assistance. They have been informed that they need to leave with their belongings now that the building is being used by hall hirers again.
8. The November 15 **working bee has been cancelled**.

9. Regarding **returning to Sunday worship in the church building**, we feel that we would not want to do so until it offers a better experience than what we are currently having via Zoom. At the moment government restrictions mean that we are not legally allowed to sing or share food, which feels like a significant diminishment. We will consider holding occasional events at the church, such as a story sharing time, to see how it feels to meet again in person. Nathan is starting to research options for how to involve distant attenders digitally in the physical service.
10. 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:**            December 24            Christmas Eve service, 8pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 1 December 2020, 7:30pm, on Zoom



# COVID-safe Plan

*as at 3 November 2020*

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that we meet the standards set out by authorities and, more importantly, to ensure that our congregation and other users of our church property understand and observe the necessary precautions and know who is responsible for implementing and monitoring them.

## **Church Gatherings and Work Practices**

At present the church will not hold any worship services or other group activities on the church property. All worship and other gatherings will continue to happen online only.

The church pastor and volunteer administrative assistants will continue to work from home. In the event that any of them need access to anything in the church building, they will ensure that they are there at a time when there is no one else in the building, and their time there will be kept to a minimum.

Pastoral care will continue to be provided online or by phone as much as possible. In the event of an emergency, face to face pastoral care is now legal within certain parameters. To ensure compliance, any pastoral visiting must be within the one-household-visit-per-day limit, and masks must be worn.

## **Other People Conducting Activities in our Building**

The church building is now available again for hire to individuals or businesses from the wider community. At present, we will only allow one group at a time to be in the building, and will make sure that there is at least a 30 minute gap between bookings (unless a negotiated plan for a safe quicker changeover is received and approved).

All hirers must be informed of and acknowledge the following:

- they are responsible for having their own COVID-safe plan for their business and/or activities;
- they carry the full responsibility for ensuring that their attendees and their activities comply with all current COVID-safe regulations;
- they are responsible to clean and disinfect all surfaces used or to be used, before and after their activities (they should not trust that the previous user has done this properly);
- they need to ensure that they are only on the church property within the time that they have booked, and that they therefore need to allow for time for cleaning, set-up and pack-up within their booking time;
- they need to immediately notify the church if anybody involved in their activities is diagnosed with COVID19 within 14 days of being on the premises;
- the church cannot and is not providing additional cleaning between activities.

This plan will be revised or replaced if and when a change in regulations or a change in church activities requires it.