



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions

from the Host Group Meeting

12th March, 2025

Listed below are the main decisions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions. In line with our church policy, these decisions are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions 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, Ian Cook, Rob Davis, Nathan Nettleton, and Shelley Taylor. Jen Davis was present as minute secretary.

Summary of the Decisions

1. Nathan has been working reduced hours for the past two months and this has succeeded in using up nearly 4 weeks of the accumulated leave owed to him. Nathan will return to working normal hours from 23rd March.
2. We didn't receive any feedback about the **Ash Wednesday** liturgy from outside the Host Group, but we believe it was well received.
3. Ian presented a half year **Financial Report**, which showed a healthy looking surplus. However, that half year still included regular income from the hire of the hall, car park hire, and manse. These added up to more than the surplus, and they are all now ending. In light of that, Ian presented a monthly budget for life without those income streams. It showed that we will be able to break even if the offerings of the last two months are maintained, but not if we only managed the average offerings of the past year.
4. We have received an offer of \$1.4 million for the manse from the Earthen Vessels Church, but they have requested a Vendor Finance arrangement where instead of borrowing the money from a bank to pay us upfront, we effectively become the financier. We decided to ask them to first approach Baptist Financial Services and the BUV to seek a way to finance the purchase up front. If that is found to be impossible, then we will consider their vendor finance proposal, including seeking legal advice and considering their requests around the timing of repayments after renovations, etc.
5. We have received a request from Baptcare to end the **current lease on the Manse**. We are seeking information from the BUV on its current status before finalising this.
6. We are working on **practical considerations** as the Surrey Road property is transferred, such as contents, insurance, rates and contact details. We are exploring whether most of the things we receive by mail can be changed to electronic communications, or whether we need a post office box or something. We are also changing the church phone number to a mobile one, and will notify everyone of the new one is obtained.

7. The **garden maintenance** is being taken over by EVC and the BUV, and we are grateful to John Fowler, whose huge contribution in maintaining it since the beginning of the lockdowns until now has enabled it to be handed over in such good condition.
8. 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.

Next meeting: 9th April 2025

Dates for your diary:

Palm and Passion Sunday - Sunday 13th April

Maundy Thursday - Thursday 17th April

Good Friday - Friday 18th April

Great Pascal Vigil - Saturday 19th April

Resurrection Sunday - Sunday 20th April