



South Yarra Community Baptist Church Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting 10th September, 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. We were pleased to hear recent **Worship News**. After a winter recess, the **Mid-Week gathering**, led by John Fowler, has recommenced at Earthen Vessels Church, with numbers remaining similar to earlier meetings. And some small changes to the **Compline** liturgy have been well received, with no negative feedback to date.
2. We were encouraged by the **Financial Report** from our Treasurer. The Financial Report showed a surplus of \$27,695, with offerings exceeding pastoral expenses for the first time in memory and with the bank balance at 30 June 2025 at \$158,000.
3. We agreed that a suggested **Budget** to June 2026 go to the SYCBC AGM on 21 September, with the recommendation that the church adopt the Budget. Included in the budget are Gifts of \$6,000; a gift/subscription to Open Baptist Association of \$4,000; and the BUV contribution of \$4,000. The budget included a small surplus, based on the offerings continuing at the same level and assuming the manse lease arrangement would continue as planned. If the manse was sold, the interest on the sale investment would benefit SYCBC in the early years.
4. The **SYCBC Annual General Meeting** is scheduled on 21st September, 1pm. The Host Group Report, the Financial Report and Budget have been prepared and other reports will be forthcoming. The formal AGM should be completed by 2pm and Nathan will give a presentation on his experiences in Georgia.
5. Following feedback, we decided that a **survey** to gauge the congregation's support for suggestions of a **new name for our church** would be circulated. We considered draft survey formats and agreed that a final form, using Survey Monkey, would be prepared and sent to the congregation, with an explanatory email. We felt that this would provide an opportunity for further conversations and would focus the congregation's thinking on this important issue.
6. We discussed the **Lease of the Manse to EVC**. Independent legal advice sought on the 'lease to buy' arrangement with Earthen Vessels Church has indicated that EVC's intended use may leave the property liable to Council rates and Land Tax. EVC are investigating this, but don't see it as a major problem. While waiting for a further response from EVC, following a conversation

with their pastor and a meeting of their leadership team, we are considering a Memorandum of Understanding between the churches.

7. 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: 8th October 2025

Dates for your diary:

Annual General Meeting - 21st September

Church Camp - 10th -12th October