



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions

from the Host Group Meeting

8th October, 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 Ian Cook, Rob Davis, Nathan Nettleton and Shelley Taylor. Jen Davis was present as minute secretary.

Summary of the Decisions

1. We are continuing to think about appointing additional **Visiting Pastoral Overseers (VPOs)**. We considered the idea of a VPO based outside Australia, as someone who knows our congregation and could offer helpful advice and opinions on SYCBC's activities. Against this suggestion are geographical and cultural differences. One example could be a former congregation member, Craig Bartlett. The Host Group would appreciate your opinions.
2. We reviewed the **SYCBC Annual General Meeting** on 21st September. It was suggested that a time of reflection - after the AGM reports were formally received - would enhance the AGM and allow responses from the congregation on how SYCBC was travelling and allow appreciation for achievements. We agreed that Nathan's presentation on his time with Baptists in Georgia was well received. Such a presentation, if available, would be a good alternative to the Listening Circle which normally follows the AGM.
3. We are eager to facilitate the **Lease of the Manse to EVC**, but awaiting from our lawyers a draft Memorandum of Understanding between our churches and Baptist Union of Victoria. We've agreed to move the process on as soon as possible, between our Host Group meetings if necessary.
4. Early responses from the survey circulated suggest that none of the names proposed as a **new name for our church** have strong support. Some responses from the congregation have suggested inviting people from outside SYCBC to assist with advice or expertise. We will be closing the survey and will follow up on this suggestion.
5. 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: 12th November 2025

Dates for your diary:

All Saints Day Liturgy - 1st November, 7pm.