



South Yarra Community Baptist Church Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

12th November, 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, Liesl Filippi, 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)**. Feedback from the congregation has indicated caution in the appointment of a person outside Australia and a suggestion that a person from Open Baptists could be considered. It is recognised that the SYCBC congregation is no longer centred in Melbourne, that 2 or 3 VPOs could make different contributions, and that a female voice should be included. We agreed to seek a person from Open Baptists, work on more suggestions and keep the SYCBC congregation informed.
2. A Memorandum of Understanding for the **Lease of the Manse to EVC** has been finalised, and is awaiting final confirmation from EVC. Endeavours to clarify insurance cover for the Manse are continuing, with ongoing contact with Baptist Insurance Services.
3. We reviewed the **SYCBC Church Camp** on 10-12 October. Feedback from a new congregation member was positive, and suggested provision of time for informal sharing over an afternoon tea, self-catering for some meals and a theme for the camp. We discussed catering limitations at the church, the use of WhatsApp and participant engagement and connection. We also considered structured planning versus a self-organisation approach. Questions inviting feedback from the camp attendees will be sent in due course.
4. We reviewed the **All Saints Day service** on 1 November. It was recognised that the categories in the liturgy may not be broad or clear enough for congregation members to easily decide on how to contribute suggestions for the service. Work will be done on the liturgy for next year's service, and the congregation will be encouraged to actively prepare for the service, eg by announcements, a discussion or a sermon in the preceding weeks.
5. We were encouraged by the **Finance Report** from our Treasurer, showing that in the period July 2025 - October 2025, Total Income was **\$33,462**; Total Expenses were **\$39,886**. This is an encouraging result with Income almost totally from Offerings.

6. We decided on the venue for our **Advent Retreat**, on 30th November, after considering various suggestions from the congregation. The retreat will be held at the home of Rob and Jen Davis, 3/7 Ardoch Ave., St Kilda East.
7. We want to move forward with the decision on our **Church Name**. A proposal from Steve Clarke, marketing specialist and contact from Camberwell Baptist Church, has been circulated to the congregation, with feedback generally positive. A venue for a meeting has been offered. Although we have some concerns about the term 'branding' we will proceed with preliminary discussions with Steve on our church history, our latest survey and payment arrangements.
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: 10th December 2025

Dates for your diary:

Advent Retreat: Sunday, 30th November, 10am - 3pm

Christmas Service: Wednesday, 24th December (Christmas Eve), 8pm