



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions

from the Host Group Meeting

10th December, 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 awaiting final confirmation and signing by Earthen Vessels Church (EVC) of the Memorandum of Understanding for the **Lease of the Manse**. The MOU will be backdated to 1st December as the commencement date.
2. We are maintaining **insurance cover for the Manse** with our payment of the remaining insurance premium. Graffiti removal, painting of the panels and installation of builder's fencing across the front of the building will be carried out for insurance purposes.
3. We are responding to advice from EVC that an initial quote for renovation the Manse was much higher than anticipated. Unspecified structural defects were also noted. The MOU does not oblige SYCBC as the property owner to contribute to the repairs. The response will set a deadline for the transfer and emphasise the need for EVC to take responsibility for the property, including maintenance and security, as of 1st December. Any SYCBC contribution to structural improvements will be considered on an item-by-item basis. *(Later Note: Within 2 days of our response, EVC signed the MOU and it is now with the BUV for ratification.)*
4. We reviewed the **Advent Retreat**. Feedback from the congregation and those attending was positive, with the venue and self-directed format appreciated. The hybrid online experience was an improvement on previous years. It was agreed the Retreat should remain as a Sunday event. Attendance at the Retreat has declined with the absence of previous attendees.
5. We understand that the **Christmas-New Year period** can be lonely for some. Daily Prayer liturgies will continue between Christmas and New Year and the recording of the Christmas Eve Service will be made available as soon as practicable. Ian and Eliz will be hosting a chat time (no liturgy) at 5pm on the evening of Christmas Day, by Zoom on the Daily Prayer link.
6. We continued our consideration of the **Church Name** and we are planning a workshop at the venue offered by John Fowler, with a tentative date set for Saturday, January 17th, from 12 to 3pm (with Sunday, January 18th as a backup option).

7. Finally, to answer a few questions: there will be an updated **Contact Directory** issued soon; the slowness of **sermon pages on the website** will be investigated when our new name is decided and the website refreshed; and we have decided that the 5pm time slot for the Sunday Liturgy remains the best time for our congregation.
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: 11th February 2026

Dates for your diary:

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

Christmas Day Chat: no service on Christmas Day, but a chat time at 5pm.

Epiphany Service: Tuesday 6th January, 7pm.