



# **South Yarra Community Baptist Church**

## **Decisions and Questions**

### **from the Host Group Meeting**

**11<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**

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](mailto: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. The Memorandum of Understanding for the **Lease of the** Manse has been signed by Earthen Vessels Church and approved by the Union Council. There are some superficial structural repairs, for which we will take responsibility. **Insurance cover** has been maintained for the Manse and reimbursement from EVC will be sought. Graffiti has been removed from the exterior and the building is looking clean and well-presented.
2. Ian presented the **Financial Report**. The Profit and Loss Statement 01-Jul-2025 to 31-Jan-2026 showed a deficit of 19,064.34, principally attributed to the loss of income from the manse. Expected income from EVC (water, insurance, rent) totals \$4,400. Noting that we have not yet sent the annual gift commitments, we have \$137,000 in available funds. A bequest of \$69,246 from the estate of Sylvia Sandeman has been received. It was agreed that this should be reserved for a specific purpose within the next two years.
3. We reviewed **Christmas and Epiphany services**, with positive feedback on the chat time at 5pm on the evening of Christmas Day.
4. We continued our consideration of the **Church Name**. The in-person workshop was considered significant and reflecting the consultative nature of SYCBC. Steve Clarke's work to tailor the workshop to SYCBC's culture was appreciated and it was agreed to pay Steve for his work. The Host Group expressed gratitude to John Fowler for arranging the use of the conference room at his apartment building for the workshop. We discussed the consequences of the name change, and the two step process of voting, using Election Buddy. We agreed that Tara Filippi could participate, based on the Host Group's knowledge of Tara's understanding of the issue. A new name will be a change in the Constitution and will require adoption at a Members' meeting.

5. We are considering **how AI can be used in our church**, with Nathan's work in music and in other ways. Nathan is investigating further ways in which our congregation can use the opportunities presented by this innovation.
6. 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 Host Group meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Dates for your diary:**

**Ash Wednesday:** 18<sup>th</sup> February

**Lenten retreat:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Easter Services:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April