open icon baptist church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

12th August 2026

Listed below are the main decisions and questions 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 **hostgroup@openicon.church**

Those in attendance at the recent meeting were Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Rob Davis, Liesl Filippi, Nathan Nettleton, and Shelley Taylor.

Summary of the Decisions

1. We give thanks for the **Prayer Vigil and Funeral for Margie Dahl**, and for the way these were received by both our own community and by others who joined us for them.

2. Our church's **name change** to *Open Icon Baptist Church* has now also been processed by the bank, completing the great majority of the notifications required.

3. The congregational vote on Philippa Thomson as a **Visiting Pastoral Overseer** is underway and will close on 19 August. We continue to explore whether a further person might also be invited to take on this role.

4. We agreed to proceed with a full implementation of the **phone app for Cloud of Voices**, including push notifications, for a trial period of 12 months. We hope to have this in place in time for church camp.

5. Planning and bookings continue for **Church Camp** at Aireys Inlet on the weekend of 9–11 October.

6. For our **AGM Listening Circle** on 20 September, we will focus on how we are feeling about AI use in the life of our church. Ahead of this, Nathan will offer a short introductory workshop, within the next three weeks, on how AI is currently being used in the church's ministry, along with a short background paper.

7. We are continuing to explore the possibility of **advertising** in regional newspapers as a way of reaching people in rural areas who may have few or no other options for Christian community, and we are also looking to explore ways of making ourselves better known in other communities that might especially benefit from our style, eg. the disability and aged sectors.

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: Wednesday 9th September 2026