



open icon baptist church

Decisions and Questions

from the Host Group Meeting

9th September 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. **Visiting Pastoral Overseer:** We warmly welcome the congregation's unanimous vote to appoint Philippa Thomson as a Visiting Pastoral Overseer. A brief rite of induction is being planned for the Sunday liturgy on 27th September.
2. **AI Workshops:** These will be held this coming Sunday and Monday, introducing AI and how it is used in our church. They will be recorded for anyone unable to attend live.
3. **Feast of Creation in Christ Liturgy:** We reviewed this new liturgy, held on 1st September, and it was well received.
4. **Cloud of Voices App:** The app has launched successfully, with growing use and positive feedback, particularly on how it draws our communication together in one place.
5. **Budget for the Coming Year:** We approved a budget to go forward to the AGM, including funds set aside as gifts to the community, provision for manse repairs, and a new allocation for trialling regional newspaper advertising.
6. **Regional Advertising:** We agreed to prepare some advertisements to run in regional newspapers, aimed at reaching people not currently connected to any church. Further details will follow as this develops.
7. **Church Camp:** Planning continues for camp at Aireys Inlet, 9th–11th October, with registrations ahead of where they were at this point last year.
8. **Congregational AGM:** A reminder that the AGM is on 20th September. Those who would like to gather online for lunch beforehand are welcome to join half an hour early.
9. 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 14th October 2026.

Dates for your diary:

AI Workshops – 1pm 13th and 7:30pm 14th September

Congregational AGM – 1:00pm, Sunday 20th September

Church Camp, Aireys Inlet – 9th-11th October