open icon baptist church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

14th October 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. It's been a busy month. We reviewed the **induction of our Visiting Pastoral Overseers**, the **AI workshops** and the **AGM listening circle** — for the first time ever, nobody passed in a listening circle! It was lovely to have Philippa with us at camp, where many of us got to know her better.
2. **Church weekend away.** The Aireys Inlet weekend was our biggest in years, and the location works well, including for those flying in from interstate. Because the word "camp" puts some people off, we will look at a simpler name such as "church weekend away". We will soon post a short feedback form in the camp group on Cloud of Voices.
3. **Recording our liturgies**. We took a first look at the proposed policy on recording and publishing our online liturgies. Based on feedback, it will be separated into a short policy (which only the church can change) and a more flexible description of how it works in practice. If you would prefer never to appear in recordings, a standing request will be honoured. Nathan will also build a trial version of a website "join" page, which would replace the direct Zoom link in the weekly email, so you can try it before anything changes.
4. **Looking ahead.** We have begun an unhurried conversation about the church's longer-term future, including what pastoral leadership might look like when Nathan eventually retires (likely some years away). No decisions have been made; at this stage we are simply keeping our eyes open, and we intend to begin a process of describing who we are as a church and what sort of person/people we might need for our future pastoral leadership. Your thoughts and prayers are welcome.
5. **BUV gathering delegates.** As some of our delegates can no longer attend the BUV gathering this Friday, the Host Group agreed that Jen Davis, who is already attending, may act as a backup delegate if the BUV can accept this at short notice.
6. **Child safety training.** There are changes to Working with Children Checks: new and renewing checks now need a short online training module, and Shelley will register our checks on the new online system, WWC Connect.
7. **Advent Retreat**. Rob and Jen have kindly offered their home again for the Advent Retreat Day on Sunday, 29th November, and we have accepted with thanks.
8. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host group 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 11th November 2026.