open icon baptist church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

11th November 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 Ian Cook, Rob Davis, Liesl Filippi, Nathan Nettleton and Shelley Taylor. Eliz Cook sent an apology.

Summary of the Decisions

1. We reviewed the All Saints service and the **vigil and funeral for Glennys**. Holding our vigil online while a funeral is held elsewhere again worked well. Having **All Saints** fall on a Sunday this year made it feel like a special Sunday liturgy. We recognise that it still wasn't clear enough what the various categories mean and who can be included. We will try to address this in future.

2. We agreed that the church will cover **Nathan's travel costs to lead a funeral in Sydney** for the mother of one of our members. We discussed the risk of setting a precedent as our congregation becomes more spread out, and recognise that such decisions will need to be made case by case, but felt this was an appropriate way for the church to stand alongside one of our own.

3. Thank you to everyone who completed the **Church Camp survey**. All of you were happy with the mix of organised and open space activities and with the location, and almost everyone was happy with the date. "Annual weekend away" was the most popular new name. We'd encourage people to think ahead about activities you might like to offer at next year's camp (a Saturday night movie on the big screen, for example). We may send out a short follow-up question about dates, as moving the weekend would mean losing the Aireys Inlet market day.

4. We have revised the draft **policy on recording and publishing our online liturgies** into two documents: a short policy, and a description of how we will put it into practice. Recordings will stay on the website for no more than one liturgical year, and anyone can ask not to appear in recordings. We will start putting this into practice shortly, so that you can see how it works before the policy comes to the congregation for adoption. Your feedback along the way is very welcome.

5. We will run a trial of **advertising in regional newspapers**, placing our ad once in three Gippsland papers and seeing what response it brings before deciding what to do next. Thank you, Geoff, for your encouraging feedback on the draft.

6. The pastor and Host Group members will be renewing their Creating Safe Spaces (**safe church**) training over the coming months, which is required every four years.

7. The **Advent Retreat** (29 Nov), **Christmas** Eve liturgy (24 Dec) and **Epiphany** liturgy (6 Jan) will go ahead in the same way as in recent years.

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 9th December 2026.