



SKUT – Rikard Jönson  
Secretary General – Camilla Asp

Subject: Follow-up on decision regarding the property in Melbourne

Dear Camilla Asp and Rikard Jönson

We are writing to follow up on the Church Board's (Kyrkostyrelsen) decision from 18 December 2025, in which it was resolved that the Secretary General would be tasked with returning to the Church Board in Sweden (kyrkostyrelsen) with a proposal for the acquisition of new premises for the Swedish Church in Australia congregation, primarily through ecumenical cooperation. The decision emphasised the importance of the assignment being "carried out in close cooperation and in continuous dialogue with the congregation."

The Church Council in Melbourne and the Board of Swedish Church Australia Ltd look forward to collaborating in this important work concerning the congregation's existence and future. However, nearly a quarter has passed since the Church Board's (Kyrkostyrelsen) decision, and we have yet to receive any formal communication from the Secretary General.

In order to begin this work and to inform our members, we would appreciate clarification on the following:

1. How does Camilla Asp envision the working process to ensure close cooperation and dialogue?
2. Is there an action plan for this work?
3. What is the Secretary General's timeline for presenting a proposal to the Church Board (Kyrkostyrelsen)?
- 4.

It is essential that the Board and Church Council in Melbourne, Swedish Church Australia are kept informed and have access to the necessary frameworks and working documents, such as guidelines for future premises (a facilities plan), so that the work required at the local level can be carried out effectively.

In the case description, the Church Board (Kyrkostyrelsen) states that "overseas congregations should be offered the opportunity to purchase the properties in which they worship and conduct their activities." It is of great importance to the congregation and its members that this becomes part of the discussions and future options being developed. Since last year's decision, it has become increasingly clear that there is significant concern about the possible sale of the property, and many have ideas about how we might continue operating in the current premises in the long term. We believe this discussion must be kept alive, supported by a clearer understanding of how such an option could be realised.

As a Church Council and Board (in Melbourne, Swedish Church Australia), we seek insight and transparency in a fact-based and thorough valuation and analysis of the actual market value, as well as the anticipated costs associated with a potential sale of the property (such as consultancy fees, taxes, international transaction costs, etc.). This would help clarify the situation and enable the congregation to assess whether a potential acquisition is feasible.

This should also be considered within the framework of ecumenical cooperation, as a potential acquisition of the property could be undertaken, for example, together with the Danish and Norwegian congregations in Melbourne, which currently hold their services in the Swedish Church's premises.

This option should be weighed against the costs of operating in new premises and the impact this would have on the activities that can be carried out, the congregation's financial sustainability, and its ability to serve its current membership.

The Melbourne congregation will hold its Annual General Meeting on 29 March, and we would like to be able to inform our members about how the collaboration process will proceed. It is of utmost importance that we can provide them with the information they need, as many have expressed considerable uncertainty about the future.

We look forward to your response and to continued close and constructive cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

*The Church Council in Melbourne*  
*The Board of Swedish Church Australia Ltd*

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**Mats Marklund**  
Chairperson, Church Council  
Chairperson, Swedish Church Australia Ltd