

Lake Avenue Church
Summer Church Meeting Minutes
Sunday, August 25, 2024 – 11:15 a.m.
Worship Center & Streamed
DRAFT

1. **Welcome & Meeting Protocol** – Church Chair Rich Chinen, welcomed all who were in attendance. A quorum was established with more than 125 members present in the Worship Center and 479 participating virtually (live and recorded). The meeting was called to order and opened in prayer by prayer ministry leader Asbed Bedikian. All meeting materials were made available for download on the church website at <https://lakeave.org/congregational-documents/church-meeting-documents-2023-2024> two weeks prior, and for pick-up in person one week prior, to August 25th. Future church meetings will transition to being in-person meetings only, while still having video recordings available for members' viewing; fewer ways to vote would consequently apply. Questions relevant to action items on the agenda would be received.
2. **Ministry Highlights 2023-24 & Ministry Plan 2024-25** – A slide presentation with photos highlighting major impactful events from ministry year 2023-24 was shown to encourage the church family to give thanks and celebrate God's work at and through Lake Avenue Church. Even while this was happening, a family of five was reported to have received Jesus as Lord and Savior in the prayer room.

Associate Pastors Nick Barrett, Beth Paz, and Jeremy Rose each shared highlights from their divisions: Congregational Life, Missional Outreach, and Worship & the Arts, respectively. Nick Barrett expressed excitement for the way cross-cultural and intergenerational discipleship and shepherding ministries have been evident in the church. Jeremy Rose exhorted all to embrace a posture of humility before and in total dependence of the Lord. Beth Paz praised the Lord for the way local partners, global outreach, and benevolence ministries have activated the work of justice and mercy in the wider communities. Additionally, staff have experienced transformation that allowed for greater unity in carrying out the work of the Lord.

Senior Pastor Mathew John gave a report on the three ministry priorities shared in the previous year: facilities stewardship and the impact of reaching out beyond our church building into the neighborhood; evangelism as cultural engagement through formation of STEM, entertainment, and business cohorts; and congregational empowerment through bi-vocational ministry where the congregation was mobilized to serve with their gifts and talents within and outside the church. The church was envisioned as a charging station for members to go and engage with their communities. Deep gratitude and appreciation were expressed to the congregation for their invaluable involvement and service. Appreciation to staff for their support was also conveyed.

Rich Chinen shared the ministry plan that had been gathered and reviewed by the leadership of the church for the new ministry year 2024-25. In summary, the ministry plan included a focus on the unity of the church body to infiltrate our culture with the light of Christ; structured leadership group formation to address long-term needs for stewardship of facilities and ministry; and thorough review of our ministry oversight structure to facilitate enhanced communication of events and activities, improved member engagement and leadership development, and clear,

consistent discipleship programs. Alignment with God as a body of Christ and invitation for others to be involved would be absolutely necessary to accomplish these goals.

3. **Membership Update** – Pastor Nick Barrett presented a church membership update: *33 new members, 15 baptisms, 21 transfers/withdrawals, and 17 deceased.* Under the leadership congregational covenant, the membership update was approved by the Elder Council and reported to the congregation. Prayer was offered to express gratitude to the Lord for those who had joined the church family and been baptized, to bless those who had withdrawn and transferred membership, and to honor in remembrance those who had returned home to be with the Lord. Invitation was extended to non-members to consider attending upcoming membership seminars and becoming members.
4. **Approval of 2024-25 Ministry Budget** – Executive Director of Church Operations Tiffany Reynoso and Financial Advisor Linda Neuenburg shared the ministry budget for the new ministry year 2024-25. A 3% increase in ministry operation was set, as well as a \$300K addition to capital reserve for planned and unplanned projects, which results in a proposed \$6.725M budget for the new ministry year. *The following motion was presented: It is moved that the budget for fiscal year 2024-25 be approved by the Congregation at the recommendation of the Elder Council and as presented during the meeting. Motion was approved and seconded.* Some questions were addressed.
5. **Approval of Covenant Amendment** – An amendment to the deacon section of the congregational leadership covenant was recommended to allow members with specialized skills and experience, who are not currently deacons or elders, to serve on church committees. A 75% vote in support of the amendment is required for its approval. Rich Chinen presented the following motion: *It is recommended by the Elder Council that the Congregational Leadership Covenant of Lake Avenue Church be amended as follows: by adding the word "members" to the section providing for membership of committees established by the Elder Council. Motion was approved and seconded, with some discussion.* Although three members voted against the covenant amendment proposal, the motion was passed, having met the 75% approval threshold requirement.
6. **Approval of Elder Nominees** – Chair of the Leadership Development Team (LDT) Les Stocker communicated gratitude for the invaluable and countless hours of laborious work the ten LDT members had poured into identifying, vetting and cultivating candidates for leadership (deacon and elder) positions. Nominees Jeff Misakian and Chris Higgins were recommended by the LDT to fill the two open one-year term elder positions. Current elders Kevin Williams, Carrie Hawkins, and Stephen Welch were recommended for re-election to full three-year term positions. *A verbal motion was moved to approve the election of Jeff Misakian and Chris Higgins, and re-election of Kevin Williams, Carrie Hawkins, and Stephen Welch for the position of elders in the church, as recommended by the LDT. The motion to approve the elder nominees was seconded without discussion.*
7. **Approval of LDT Nominees** – Stephen Hellwig, Co-Chair of Deacon-5 Committee responsible for nominating members for election to the LDT, presented LDT nominees Lois Kasten and Ken Wagner to serve on the full three-year term positions as LDT members. *A verbal motion was moved to approve the nomination of Lois Kasten and Ken Wagner to serve on the LDT, as recommended by the Deacon-5 Committee. The motion to approve the LDT nominees was seconded with no discussion.* The tireless work of the Deacon-5 Committee was recognized and greatly appreciated. Members were instructed to submit their votes for the Elder and LDT nominees via one of four ways: paper,

electronic, email, or phone ballot. Submission of ballots would be received until Tuesday, August 27th, 5 p.m. PST.

8. **Approval of February 11, 2024 and April 28, 2024, Church Meeting Minutes** – *Rich Chinen made the following motion: It is recommended that February 11, 2024 and April 28, 2024, church meeting minutes be approved as presented. Motion was passed and seconded without discussion. These minutes were posted on the church website two weeks prior and physical copies were made available for pick-up one week prior to the meeting date of August 25. Church members were informed to review them in advance. Minutes could be viewed in the above-mentioned link for meeting materials. Prayer ministry leader Lori Johnson closed the meeting in prayer before the meeting was adjourned.*

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucy Thompson
Recording Clerk

**After the meeting, it was reported to the church family that out of 231 votes counted, 208 affirmed the entire leadership slate. A recording of the meeting was posted at <https://lakeave.org/congregational-documents/church-meeting-documents-2023-2024>*