



LAKE AVENUE
CHURCH

Summer

CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 11:15 AM
WORSHIP CENTER

2025

AGENDA

SUMMER CHURCH MEETING MATERIALS

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ELDER COUNCIL

Officers

Rich Chinen, Chair
Stephen Welch, Vice Chair and Secretary
Jeff Misakian, Treasurer
Mathew P. John, Senior Pastor

Members

Arnie Welch
Carrie Hawkins
Christine Higgins
Elaine Carovilla
Kevin Williams
Michelle Jensen
Nick Barrett, Associate Pastor of Congregational Life
Sung Choe

Invited Regular Guests

Linda Neuenburg, Advisor in Finance
Wshana Moss, Recording Secretary
Tiffany Reynoso, Executive Director of Church Operations

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear Lake Avenue Church Family,

Thank you for your continued faithfulness in choosing to Belong to God's family at Lake with those who Believe in the saving grace of Jesus Christ and seek to Become like Him and reflect His image to the community around us.

This year's Summer Church Meeting on Sunday, August 24, 2025 will highlight the past ministry year in thanksgiving to God for all that He has done with and through His people at Lake. We will also share a vision of where we sense the Holy Spirit is leading us over the course of the next 12 months. You will not want to miss the meeting as it is my hope that you will not only be informed, but that you will be inspired as God leads us.

We will provide updates of our membership, seek to elect Elders and Leadership Development Team members and approve the annual budget for the next fiscal year of September 2025 through August 2026.

The Church Meeting will be in person and a recording of it will be made available on our church website. To facilitate your engagement and understanding of the topics to be discussed, we have prepared a summer meeting packet containing all of the relevant information. This packet will give you insight into the leadership slate, highlights from the past year, plans for the upcoming year, and the proposed annual budget. I encourage you to review this material in advance of the meeting.

One significant aspect of this gathering is the leadership slate presented by the diligent work of our Leadership Development Team for Church Chair and Elder nominees, and 5 Deacon team for LDT nominees. They have been actively involved in identifying and interviewing potential leaders to serve on the Elder Council and Leadership Development Team. You can find video introductions of the nominees at lakeave.org/PTVIUIN#nominees. Voting for the leadership slate will be open to active members 3 days in advance beginning at 9:00 am on August 21. Voting will close at the end of the church meeting on August 24. Electronic voting is open at any time during this voting period. Phone voting is open only during the hours of 9:30 am – 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 21 and Friday, August 22. Paper ballot is available during the church meeting on August 24, and will be collected at the end of the meeting. Additional voting details are available at lakeave.org/PTVIUIN#voting.

Please join us in thanking God for the work He continues to do at Lake Avenue Church and asking for His guidance in the year ahead.

With His richest blessings of grace, peace and love through Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rich Chinen'.

Rich Chinen,
Church Chair

CHURCH LEADERSHIP ELECTION

The names below represent the slate of nominees to be voted on for the 2025 to 2026 ministry year as presented by the 2025 Leadership Development Team(LDT) and the Five Deacons. Elder Council members may serve up to two terms of three years each. LDT may serve up to one term of three years.

To watch videos about each of our Elder and LDT nominees, please scan the QR code below with your smart phone.



2025 Leadership Development Team

Bassem Wahbi, Elaine Carovilla, Franci Maharaj, Les Stocker (Chair), Nick Barrett (Associate Pastor of Congregational Life), Sung Choe, Preston Hawkins, Ken Wagner, Lois Kasten, Rich Chinen

Questions about Elder nominees presented can be directed to the Leadership Development Team at ***ldt@lakeave.org***. Questions about LDT nominees can be directed to the Five Deacons at ***d5@lakeave.org***.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP ELECTION

Elder Council Nominees



Sung Choe

(Church Chair, 1st term of 2 years)

Ministry Involvement: Elder Council, Church Vice-Chair, 2 Senior Pastor Search Committees, Division Chair, Rooted, Young Couples Community, Marriage Ministry, Small Groups

Spiritual Gifts: Pastoral, Wisdom



Christine Higgins (Re-election)

(1st term of 3 years)

Ministry Involvement: Elder Council, Strategic Stewardship Task Force, Rooted Pilot and CYA Groups, Mentoring, Finance Committee, Galileans Executive Committee

Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Service, Encouragement



Laura Crichton

(1st term of 1 year)

Ministry Involvement: Assistant Children's Ministry Registrar, Honorary Staff Member, Fire Relief Team Member, Morning Break President and Table Leader, Rooted Pilot Group, Adult Class Ministry Team and Homebuilders Class Secretary

Spiritual Gifts: Service, Administration, Hospitality



Dave Rumph

(1st term of 3 years)

Ministry Involvement: Congregational Life Division, Worship & Arts Division, Outreach Division, Alive Team, CYA, Sunday School Class Leadership, Small Group Leader

Spiritual Gifts: Faith, Wisdom, Giving, Service



Peter Gazanian

(1st term of 3 years)

Ministry Involvement: College and Young Adult Group, Older Young Adult Class, Global Outreach, Club 45 Worship Leader, Worship & Arts

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Teaching, Discernment, Exhortation, Leadership

Leadership Development Team (LDT) Nominees



Alan Tussy

Ministry Involvement: Pathways Connect Ministry, Men's Ministry and Men in Real Life Leadership Teams, Rooted 2.0 Leadership Team, Nominating Committees, Parking Lot Ministry, Guest Teacher for Discovery and Bereans Classes, Rooted and Men in Real Life Table Leader, Rock Solid Co-coach

Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Exhortation, Shepherding



Philip Bustrum

Ministry Involvement: Spiritual Formation Task Force Member, Genesis Class Teacher, Men's Group Member, Communion Server, Pastoral Extension Team

Spiritual Gifts: Teaching, Leadership



FAMILY UPDATE

The Elder Council approves all changes in membership at the Elder Council meetings and reports updates at the church meetings, as provided in the Congregational Leadership Covenant. The names below have made the commitment to join our church family through membership or baptism and have been approved by the Elder Council.

NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kirk Bevis Cassidy | 13. Linda Lee | 25. Blessing Ekpezu |
| 2. Dalton Ayala | 14. Cindy Lin | 26. Merle Gee |
| 3. Andrew Birkhimer | 15. Pamela Martin | 27. Rubina Kazaryan |
| 4. Flori Cabrera | 16. Ivan Pan | 28. Nelson Lew |
| 5. David Castillo | 17. Sherley Pan | 29. Ameen Makanvand |
| 6. Carlos Cevallos | 18. Bitá Pirzadeh | 30. Dinah Okpan |
| 7. Cathy Choi | 19. Ayde Valtierra | 31. Ariana Ovsepian |
| 8. Odette Clancy | 20. Carol Wong | 32. Sophie Tong |
| 9. Nasira Elias | 21. Edward Wong | 33. Jeremy Wong |
| 10. Lairui Jiang | 22. Yeshi Amare | 34. Benny Xian |
| 11. Jacob Johnson | 23. Sheridan Beasley | |
| 12. Lauren Johnson | 24. Gary Clancy | |

Comunidad de las Américas NEW MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Madelyne Bolaños Bermeo | 5. Imelda Alba Núñez | 9. Javier Ruperto |
| 2. Daniel A. Lara | 6. Daniela Ramírez | 10. Gloria de la Torre |
| 3. Eva Aquino | 7. Iván Calles | 11. Elia Barahona |
| 4. Juliesy Carolina Castro | 8. José Moreira | 12. Rolando Barahona |

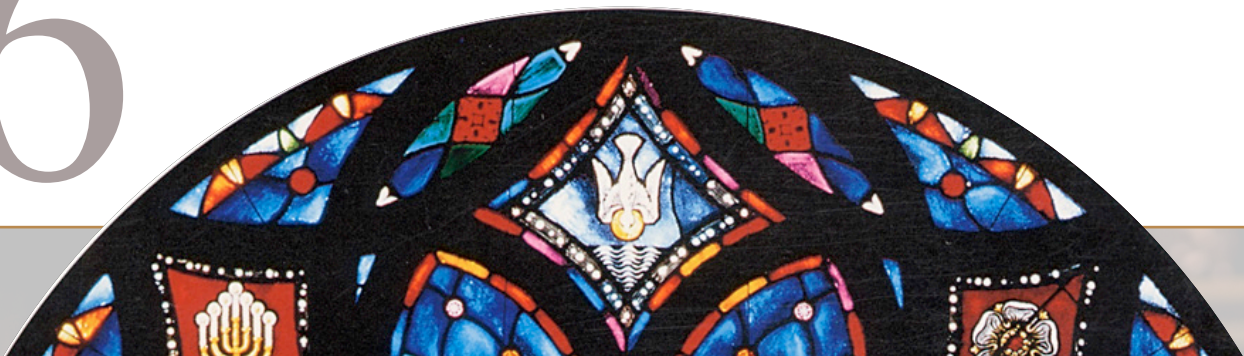
BAPTISMS

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tyler Clancy | 5. Hayley Wright | 9. Lourdes Reyes |
| 2. Alyssa Mcgregor | 6. Jake Adkins | 10. Don Wood |
| 3. Darin Buenaluz | 7. Nathanael Hutchins | |
| 4. Felix Benevides | 8. Tyler Dimacali | |

Comunidad de las Américas BAPTISMS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Britany Salazar | 5. Melissa Rodriguez | 11. Camila Mosquera |
| 2. Cirus Barrios | 6. Nathan Cruz | 12. Clarita Martinez |
| 3. Ethan Hallon | 7. Alba Villegas | 13. Daniel Marchessini |
| 4. Josué Gabriel De La Paz Franco | 8. Alex Trejo | 14. Erick LEópez Sánchez |
| | 9. Ariana Mosquera | 15. James Martínez |
| | 10. Brigido Castro | 16. Samantha Del Cid |

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FAMILY UPDATE

Along with welcoming new members, we've had to say goodbye to others. The Elder Council has approved the membership changes below as requested by those who have moved onto other church communities or who have passed away.

TRANSFERS/WITHDRAWALS

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lyn Cross | 3. Stephen Hellwig | 5. David Scheidler |
| 2. Randi Kummen-Martin | 4. Aleta Hellwig | 6. Mary Sue Scheidler |

DECEASED

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Erika Rippel | 6. Elvy Gustaffson | 11. Miva Wheatley |
| 2. Karl DeHaven | 7. Pamela Stocker | 12. Carren Ong |
| 3. Marshall Lew | 8. Wendy Allestad | 13. Kenneth Hilton |
| 4. Ralph Martin | 9. Janice Powers | 14. Steve Barnes |
| 5. Tom Tatsui | 10. Joy Seiler | |



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS (2024-2025)

As we look back on our accomplishments of the past year, we are humbled and grateful for how God has been working in and through our church. Together, we have experienced remarkable spiritual growth, deepened our commitment to missions, and strengthened our sense of community. Here are some of the key highlights that have shaped our journey:

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

God is powerfully at work in the ministries of Congregational Life! Our Connect Ministry has grown from a team of 12 volunteers to 90! The Connect Ministry provides our congregation with cheerful greeters, new-member connections, ushering, parking lot hosts, and helps congregants get plugged-in to discipleship and service opportunities. The Care Ministries department has organized a group of 60 lay leaders into a Pastoral Extension Team. This team provides specialized forms of care, support, and ministry to our congregation—on campus, in homes, and during hospital visits. During the January fires, our staff and Care Ministries team provided care, benevolence, and support to over 300 individuals (and that work continues today). This team powerfully reflects the heart of Jesus by ensuring that no one suffers alone. Our Children's and Young Family Ministry has seen significant growth. The Children's Ministry has doubled in size over the last year, and it continues to see 1-2 new families each week. Our amazing volunteers and teachers continue to provide excellent biblical instruction with a new curriculum called The Gospel Project. Our Children's Ministry team also hosted a large VBS this summer. At VBS we hosted 300 students, and were supported by 200 volunteers. The NextGen Ministries team continues to offer dynamic programs of discipleship and spiritual growth for Middle School, High School, College, and Young Adults. Over the last year, we have seen nearly 25 young people baptized! God is raising up a vibrant generation of young people at Lake to become committed followers of Jesus. Our prayer ministry has seen salvations and miraculous encounters in the prayer room during worship services. The Vets Ministry has developed a new leadership team to support Vets at Lake and beyond. The Marriage Ministry continues to provide deep, careful support to couples in all seasons of life. The Grandparenting Ministry is preparing to host a Visionary Family Ministries Conference at Lake in 2026 that will focus on developing the family as the key site of discipleship and formation. Many of our Adult Fellowships have been growing in number and we were particularly excited to see the launch of a new Adult Fellowship comprised of older young adults (OYA), which meets twice a month. Our staff ministers have been asked to focus on developing relational connections with congregants on Sundays (with our new coffee carts) and have booked thousands of hours with congregants through ministry activities and personal appointments during the year. God is doing amazing things at Lake Avenue Church (too much to write here), and we are thrilled to be a part of it!



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS (2024-2025)

WORSHIP & THE ARTS

This year we saw a number of powerful opportunities to gather and grow as a family of God that worships together. The Fall of 2024 brought to us the hiring of Next-Gen Worship Leader, Benjie Baer, and his leadership not only of key Sunday morning worship services, but also student and family worship gatherings and the mentoring of student and young adult worship leaders and musicians. We had our Week of Worship at the end of October, the Dwelling Place, Living Room, and Abide worship gatherings, as well as our New Year's Eve Worship Night and Block Party, a new Lenten Service leading up to our Good Friday and Easter celebrations. We also saw a new and continuing collaboration with worship teams at Azusa Pacific University. New compositions of orchestral works by Duane Funderburk included "Like A River Glorious" and "The Beatitudes" (composed with Melody Hung). Pastor Jeremy brought us a new song of worship he wrote called, "Who You Are." We also had a Fall Chamber Concert featuring Natalie Boberg, Duane Funderburk, Matt Daley, and David Catalan; An Evening with C.S. Lewis performed by Phil Crowley; the Messiah Sing-Along; both the Fire Relief Orchestra Concert led by Esther Kim and Duane Funderburk, and the Night of Hope Benefit Concert in partnership with Eight Days of Hope. Our children's choir participated in worship services and recorded a project with Ed Willmington and the Brehm Center of Worship, Theology, and the Arts at Fuller Theological Seminary. They also performed a musical in May called, "Holy Moses." Lastly, our year ended with the Expressions of Faith and Hope Concert featuring soloists from the Bolshoi Theater Orchestra, Moscow.



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS (2024-2025)

MISSIONAL OUTREACH

As our community faced the sorrow and loss caused by the Eaton Fire, we were given meaningful opportunities to extend love and care to those impacted by the tragedy. We partnered with organizations such as Samaritan's Purse, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, Christian Legal Aid of Los Angeles, Eight Days of Hope, and churches from across the nation to offer physical, emotional, legal, and spiritual support to those who lost homes, loved ones, and entire communities. Our Fire Relief and Benevolence Funds have been actively disbursed to assist in recovery efforts. Recognizing the anxiety faced by undocumented individuals in our community during this season of intensified immigration enforcement, we offered legal resources and pastoral care as a tangible expression of Christ's compassion. And year after year, *Community Meals* continue to be served faithfully through *Testimony Ministries*, demonstrating the ongoing love of Christ to our unhoused neighbors. To further deepen our engagement with seven local ministry partners in our immediate area, we launched the "Love in Action" grant, a new initiative designed to partner with them in community service. We also created the "First Commission Initiative" grant to support a range of local evangelism projects that aim to introduce the gospel to people of other religions or no religion in our neighborhood.

The Global Outreach (GO) Team worked with exceptional diligence to evaluate and revise our list of global partners and is working on creating new policies, processes, and selection criteria that align with our broader vision and mission. We commissioned a new global partner couple to serve in Germany. A passionate and dedicated team of our members traveled to Thailand and India on short-term mission trips, serving and learning alongside our global partners in those regions. One of the most exciting accomplishments of the year is the publication of the LAC Global Partner Booklet. This compact and accessible resource introduces our actively supported global partners to the Lake Avenue Church family. We encourage you to keep this booklet with you, use it as a prayer guide, and join our global partners in fulfilling the Great Commission. We praise God for all that has been accomplished through our Missional Outreach Team this year. As we continue to respond to the call to both "Come and See," and "Go and Tell," we remain committed to equipping one another to serve both our neighborhood and the nations with the gospel of Christ.





MINISTRY PLAN (2025-2026)

As we embark on a new year filled with hope and anticipation, we are excited to share the ministry plan and visions shaping our journey together. The ministry plan is what is behind the budget numbers for the coming year and has been developed by Mathew P. John, Senior Pastor, in close partnership with the Elder Council, Personnel Committee, and the Pastoral Team. These goals are inspired by our commitment to growing in faith, community, and service.

Our Ministry Focus for 2025/2026

We will be focusing on three strategic areas that align with our calling to make disciples and extend our reach to our local and global mission fields.

1. Building a Discipleship Pathway.

One of our major priorities this year is to develop a clear and sustainable Discipleship Pathway designed to guide people from initial connection to deep spiritual formation. Our aim for the fall season is to engage at least 80% of our regular attendees in one of these core community groups:

- Adult Classes
- Small Groups
- Men's and Women's Ministries
- College and Young Adults

This will involve the launch of new adult classes, the formation of additional small groups, and a fresh approach to intergenerational engagement.

2. Expanding Our Digital Presence and Content Strategy

We recognize the growing importance of digital platforms in extending our reach and serving those beyond our physical campus. This year, we will be investing in:

- Original content creation (video, written, and audio)
- Consistent and strategic social media engagement
- Enhanced online promotion of our ministries and outreach efforts

The goal is not only to inform but to inspire, disciple, and invite others into the life and mission of LAC—locally and globally.

3. Strengthening Missional Outreach Locally and Globally

After decades of faithful engagement, we have now consolidated and refocused our list of Global Partners under the Missional Outreach division. This renewed clarity will allow us to increase support for international projects that expand the Kingdom of God across borders.

We are launching two new grant initiatives to deepen congregational involvement in local outreach and evangelism:

- Love in Action Grants – To support members who are engaged in tangible acts of mercy, service, and justice in the local community.
- First Commission Initiatives – To fund creative evangelism and Gospel-sharing projects led by LAC members.

Together, these three focus areas reflect our deep commitment to making disciples, building community, and joining God's mission in the world.

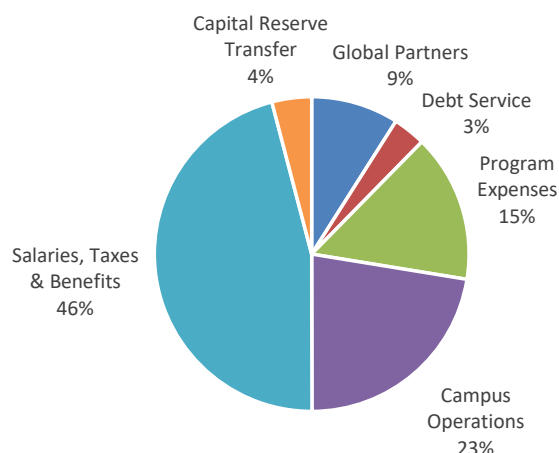


MINISTRY BUDGET (2025-2026)

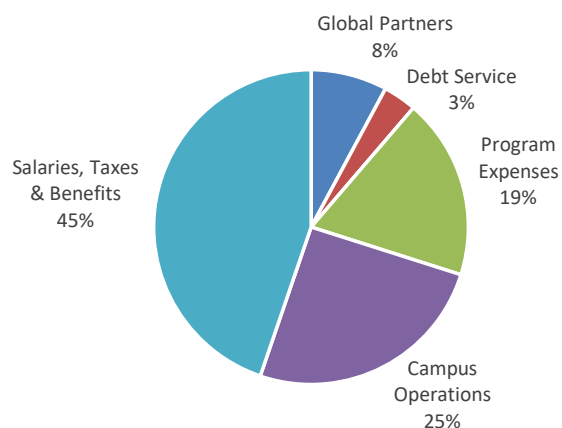
The proposed plan reflects the budget of Lake Avenue Church (LAC) for its Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Per the LAC Congregational Covenant, the Elder Council shall propose the annual overall budget of the church for approval by members. The Elder Council, in consultation with the Finance Committee recommends the planned expense budget of \$6,725,000.

BUDGET BY MINISTRY DIVISIONS					
Budget by Ministry Division: FY24-25					
Description	Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	Program/ Other	Total Expense Budget	Donations/ Transfers	Net General Fund Budget
Executive Office	\$ 399,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 486,000	\$ -	\$ 486,000
Worship & Arts	\$ 397,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 486,000	\$ (100,000)	\$ 386,000
Congregational Life	\$ 933,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 1,048,000	\$ (75,000)	\$ 973,000
Missions & Outreach	\$ 273,000	\$ 364,000	\$ 637,000	\$ (430,000)	\$ 207,000
Global Partners	\$ -	\$ 660,000	\$ 660,000	\$ -	\$ 660,000
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 246,000	\$ 246,000	\$ -	\$ 246,000
Finance & Admin	\$ 975,000	\$ 459,000	\$ 1,434,000	\$ -	\$ 1,434,000
Campus Events & Operations	\$ 390,000	\$ 1,643,000	\$ 2,033,000	\$ -	\$ 2,033,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000
TOTAL CASH BUDGET	\$ 3,367,000	\$ 3,963,000	\$ 7,330,000	\$ (605,000)	\$ 6,725,000
Budget by Ministry Division: FY25-26					
Description	Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	Program/ Other	Total Expense Budget	Donations/ Transfers	Net General Fund Budget
Executive Office	\$ 422,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 509,000	\$ -	\$ 509,000
Worship & Arts	\$ 431,000	\$ 98,000	\$ 529,000	\$ (100,000)	\$ 429,000
Congregational Life	\$ 869,000	\$ 139,000	\$ 1,008,000	\$ (75,000)	\$ 933,000
Missions & Outreach	\$ 108,000	\$ 529,000	\$ 637,000	\$ (275,000)	\$ 362,000
Global Partners	\$ -	\$ 565,000	\$ 565,000	\$ -	\$ 565,000
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 246,000	\$ 246,000	\$ -	\$ 246,000
Finance & Admin	\$ 998,000	\$ 480,000	\$ 1,478,000	\$ -	\$ 1,478,000
Campus Events & Operations	\$ 384,000	\$ 1,819,000	\$ 2,203,000	\$ -	\$ 2,203,000
Transfer to Capital Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL CASH BUDGET	\$ 3,212,000	\$ 3,963,000	\$ 7,175,000	\$ (450,000)	\$ 6,725,000

FY24-25 Categories



FY25-26 Categories





QUESTIONS & VOTING

There will be an opportunity to ask questions live in the Worship Center. Those unable to attend in person can email in questions for church leadership to respond to before or after the meeting. Questions from active members will be prioritized and responded to before the end of the voting period. No anonymous questions will be accepted. Send questions via email to: leadership@lakeave.org

At the Summer Church Meeting, active members attending in person will have to vote on the Ministry Plan & Budget for the 2025-2026 ministry year. **Voting for the leadership slate will be open to active members 3 days in advance beginning at 9 am on August 21 and close at the end of the church meeting on August 24.** Active members of the church can vote one of three ways. Choose one of the options below to vote on the elected leadership slate:

- **Electronic Ballot**

Open beginning at 9 am on August 21. Close at the end of the church meeting on August 24. Go to lakeave.org/PTVIUIN#voting or scan the QR code with a smart phone.

- **Phone**

Call the church office at 626.844.4700 to vote over the phone Thursday, August 21 and Friday, August 22, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm.

- **Paper Ballot**

Available for those attending the meeting in person.
All paper ballots will be collected at the end of the meeting.



LAKE AVENUE
CHURCH



Find us on Facebook, Instagram, Vimeo & YouTube by searching: LakeAvenueChurch

393 North Lake Avenue ■ Pasadena, CA 91101-1298

Tel: 626.844.4700 ■ Fax: 626.795.8950

www.lakeave.org ■ info@lakeave.org