

Lake Avenue Church
Winter Church Meeting Minutes
Sunday, Feb 2, 2025 - 11:15am
Worship Center

1. **Welcome** - Rich Chinen, Church Chair, called the meeting to order. Quorum was established with more than 125 members present in the worship center (29 watched the recording at a later time). The meeting was opened with prayer.
2. **Approval of Aug. 25, 2024 Church Meeting Minutes** - *The following motion was made: It is recommended that Aug. 25, 2024 church meeting minutes be approved as presented. Motion was passed and seconded without discussion.* The minutes was posted on the church website in advance, and church members were asked to review the minutes prior to the meeting. Some hard copies were made available. Minutes are available on the church website at <https://lakeave.org/congregational-documents/church-meeting-documents-2024-2025>.
3. **Membership Update** - Nick Barrett, Associate Pastor of Congregational Life, gave a membership report. Under the new covenant, membership update had been regularly reviewed and approved by the Elder Council on behalf of and reported to the congregation. Moments of reflection and prayer was shared to thank the Lord for those who had joined the body at Lake Ave Church (LAC), those who had been baptized, those who had transferred membership, and those who had become deceased. This update included *30 new members, 2 transfers/withdrawals, 2 baptisms, and 5 deceased*.
4. **Fiscal Year End 2024 Financials** - Tiffany Reynoso, Executive Director of Church Operations, and Church Treasurer Jeff Misakian, presented the audited financial report for fiscal year 2023-2024. Revenue, expenses, balance sheet and cash flow were highlighted. Questions and comments were received from the floor. Details of the documents were posted on <https://lakeave.org/congregational-documents/church-meeting-documents-2024-2025>. Gratitude was expressed for the radical generosity of the church family.
5. **Church Chair Mid-Year Report** - Rich Chinen reported that church properties on 712 and 720 Villa Ave. were approaching completion in the coming few months and would be ready for occupancy. The Villa property sub-committee, staff, and other gifted church members and workers were deeply appreciated for their labor. Prayer was requested for continued obedience to wisely steward the church properties including 500 Villa and the church campus.

Rich Chinen announced Carlos Morales, current staff member of Lake Ave Church (LAC)'s Hispanic congregation, Comunidad de las Americas, to be the interim lead staff following the retirement of Comunidad's Senior Pastor Jorge Sanchez in December 2024. The Personnel Committee and the Elder Council continued to dedicate prayers and efforts to the formation of a strong ministry team and structure for Comunidad during this transitional phase.

Due to the overtaking need in the logistics and execution of the Eaton Fire Relief efforts since January 7th, any questions related to global partner fund transition were to be sent to Chair of Missional Outreach Division and Elder Carrie Hawkins. A response to the letter requesting for a meeting to address the concerns would be given within 60 days from the date of the letter. LAC's commitment to the Great Commission

in this time and age was assured. Prayers were invited for our church leadership, those concerned, and the global partners of LAC.

The deacons were in the process of selecting a group of five deacons who would be tasked with nominating two church members for leadership position with the Leadership Development Team (LDT). The two nominees would be presented for election at the Summer Church Meeting in August. Church members were encouraged to submit names of those they would like to nominate to the LDT to this group of five deacons.

Looking forward into the future, Rich Chinen shared about the plan that was still being finalized to form three committees under the oversight of the Elder Council: Facilities Committee for the maintenance, repair, and renovation of the church facilities; Development Committee for long-term revenue generation to meet the long-term need of the church; and Membership Committee for the engaging and equipping of church members in ministry.

In the wake of the Eaton Fire that started at 6:15 pm on January 7th, the church was invited to participate in a 15-minute daily zoom prayer gathering from 6:15 to 6:30 pm except on Wednesdays and Sundays. This would be a catalyst for intimacy with God in the midst of suffering and for lifting up the need of the community impacted by the fires. More details would be shared in the next few days.

6. **Eaton Fire Relief Effort Update** - Tiffany Reynoso introduced four fire-relief teams: pastoral care, financial relief, resource recommendation, and on-site hospitality. Appropriate information and connection were given to those who would like to volunteer and those in need of assistance. Those who lost homes in the fire were encouraged to reach out for support. Non-profit disaster relief organization Samaritan's Purse provided personal property recovery service in partnership with Billy Graham ministry, and had brought many to salvation in Christ.
7. **Senior Pastor's Vision** - Mathew P. John, Senior Pastor, shared the vision of LAC: "We are a community of Christ-followers from every nation and each generation, reflecting the message of the Gospel in our neighborhood and beyond." While Sunday Service serves as a charging station, the church happens on Mondays-Saturdays in the neighborhood. Repeated assertion on the "neighborhood" pointed to a new focus especially in the aftermath of the Eaton Fire. The church is called to living missionally, as a serving community, not just a learning community. The shift from mega to micro church is emphasized, with community happening in small groups. The investment in and equipping of the younger generation in preparation to take on the future leadership of the church remains a firm goal of the Congregational Life division. Pastor Mathew John affirmed the tireless labor of the elders, deacons, and ministry leaders in their faithfulness to the vision and mission of the church. Church Vice-Chair, Stephen Welch closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lucy Thompson
Recording Clerk