St. Paul's Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
6:30 pm - Fireside Room
Minutes

Call to Order – Paul Lavigne, Vice President at 6:30 pm

Opening Devotion – Led by Robyn Strohschein
Based on Isaiah 43:1-3
Water = Creation, destruction, salvation

Non-Board Member Comments
None received.

Approval of Minutes
MOTION: A motion was made to approve the July 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes. The motion was seconded. **All in favor. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – Pike Lambeth

- General tithes and offerings are about $4K above budget, and $10K above last year.
- Our net income is $406K, which is below our budget by about $102K and 129K below last year. The shortfall is mostly from timing at the start of the fiscal year. Our budgeted net income is used to support our loan principal payments.
- Funds at Allspring are earning about 4.01% (7-day effective yield Administrator class). The Federal Reserve Bank lowered interest rates by 0.25% at their September meeting so this effective yield will drift down a bit overtime.
- Strategies to reduce expenses along with marketing to improve enrollment and attendance, and encouragement for tithing needs to continue.

Staff Reports

- **Kessler O'Brien, Director of Student & Family Ministries** – student ministry going well; middle school youth is growing, small group leaders are a huge benefit; high school youth is capitalizing on attendance at the National Youth Gathering, Patio Worship attendance is steady; Kid's Church ministry team is doing an amazing job, reimaging what it can be; spending more intentional time down at the school, benefit of having a designated room, student taking advantage of having one-on-one DCE time.
- **Juno Rada, Director of Worship Arts** – happy to report that our volunteer roster is growing; we have written two new songs, Made New theme year song and a sending song for Chapel; collaborated on the Panther Power Run promo video; the Patio Worship Band is looking for new high school musicians and singers; will be providing live music at the Boutique.
- **Heidi de la Motte, Early Childhood Director** – kids are settling in and getting more excited about being at school, completed events include Meet & Greet, Back to School Night, Kids Night Out, and Family Movie Night; upcoming is the Trike-a-Thon fundraiser; please pray for more 3-year-olds to enroll as there is plenty of room, all other rooms full.
- **Nicole Stankus, Business Manager** – last year's deficit was less than expected; firework stand raised $23,500; school enrollment was budgeted for 350 students, we have 358 enrolled; Orange Lutheran parking lot lease agreement will bring in $60,000 this year.

- **Deryl Maxwell, Principal** – great things happening at the school; we have a strong interest from international students for a short-term session in January; campus safety is heavily resourced with a team of volunteers made up of current or former law enforcement and military; implementation of new policies schoolwide on discipline, sub request procedures, and attendance/tardies; middle school is unstaffed; there is a need for Instructional Aides throughout the school and help with lunch supervision; Ashley Klitzing is working hard to recruit and keep good volunteers.
- **Andrew Fonseca, Marketing Report** – participated in the Learn and Grow Expo at the The District at Tustin Legacy; we are now a part of the Chamber of Commerce and will be participating in as many City events as possible; working on our online credential ownership and a centralized place for communication at the school; will be working on redoing our website once the current platform agreement is up, excited for the Power Run, Fall Festival, Treats in the Streets, and Boutique.
- **Pastor Carlos Velasquez, Assistant Pastor** – currently at 66 congregants, place St. Paul's within the upper 55% of LCMS congregations in ministry size; average attendance has been down to due the current conditions; collected 70 backpacks through the School Drive with half going to our ministry partner in Tijuana; social media presence is growing; mid-week life groups and family basketball night are well attended by members bringing family and friends; Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations has gotten off to a good start; Pastor Carlos is working on EB-2 NIW visa process to provide secure long-term status for him and his family.
- **Pastor Larry Stoterau, Senior Pastor** – there are a significant number of people signed up for the New Member Class, most of them from the school; worship attendance is averaging about 375 between all services with an additional 45-64 views online, we need to continue to work on encouraging worship attendance; work is being done by Linda Stoterau to clean up Tom's old office, she will be cataloging all the sheet music, the older equipment will be sold or given away.

Congregation Survey – Pastor Stoterau
A copy of the recent congregational survey was distributed. Copies will be given to the Senior Pastor Call Committee. Comments will be used to complete the Call Manual documents that will be submitted to the Pacific Southwest District. The Board will revisit the survey at the next meeting, giving sufficient time to review.

Call Committee – Paul Lavigne & Pastor Stoterau
The Call process was explained. Per the Bylaws, the Board selects a Call Committee to do the work of the Board in calling a new pastor. Once the Call Committee has pastoral recommendations, the Board then approves and recommends the pastors to the congregation. Only the Congregation can call a pastor. The Call Committee is required to be made up of a minimum of 6 members and a Board member should serve as the Chair. It is important to have as much diversity as possible. The goal of the committee will be to determine the needs of the congregation and the strengths that a pastor will need to meet these needs. At the appropriate time, pastoral nominations from the congregation will be received for consideration. District President, Mike Gibson will submit a list for consideration. It is highly recommended that at least 2 pastors are presented to the congregation. A list of members being considered for the Call Committee was submitted to the Board.

MOTION: A motion was made to accept the name presented to serve as the Senior Pastor Call Committee; motion was seconded; no further discussion; **7 yes; 2 abstain; 1 absent. Motion carried.** The members of the Call Committee will be shared with the congregation.

Prayer Bricks
Gail passed out the new prayer bricks. These now include a place for Board member prayer requests and names of our staff (from the church, elementary school and preschool) so that each staff member will be prayed for by name throughout the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Adjournment & Prayer – Paul Lavigne at 7:55 pm
There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman entertained a motion and second to adjourn. Motion approved. Adjournment to continue in Service and Prayer.

Sincerely,
Gail Kanneg - Secretary

Those in Attendance on September 23:

Paul Lavigne – Vice President
Pike Lambeth - Treasurer
Gail Kanneg - Secretary
Steve Aviles
John Borton
Beth Fitzgerald
Drew Hantula
Robyn Strohschein
Matt Wingert
Pastor Larry Stoterau

Absent: David Talmage - President

Guests: Pastor Carlos Velasquez, Deryl Maxwell, Kessler O'Brien, Emily Campbell, Linda Campbell, Jack Mihr, Andrew Fonseca, Nicole Stankus, Karen Halsaver, Shannon Lavigne