



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE INFORMATION

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FOR VOTING ON  
JUNE 3, 2023



**[STPAULSORANGE.ORG](http://STPAULSORANGE.ORG)**



**Candidate: Gail Kanneg**

**Position: Secretary**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

I have been a member for 52 years.

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

Currently, I serve as the Board of Directors Secretary; Director of Joyful Praise Handbells; Altar Guild Coordinator; Scripture Reader Coordinator; Care Ministry Member; and have led several Bible Studies. Prior to serving as Secretary, I served as a Board of Directors

Member-at-Large. I served on the Building for the Future Capital Campaign Committee.

I have assisted with the Street Fair, Reformation Celebration, and Feed My Starving Children events.

**What is/was your occupation?**

I am an Administrative Assistant for Lutheran Church Extension Fund, assisting the offices of the Pacific Southwest District, the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, and the Northwest District. I also work in conjunction with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District office.

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

I was both a Board member and President of the Anaheim Amateur Figure Skating Association for 4 years.

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

It has been a blessing and a pleasure to serve St. Paul's as we went through the struggles and hardships of COVID and as we went through the "pains" of our Sanctuary remodel. Some hard and maybe not popular decisions had to be made during these times. I am pleased to say that all decisions of the Board of Directors are made with much prayer and consideration of what is best for St. Paul's as a whole. I pray that all St. Paul's members will embrace the opportunity to gather in worship as God's people and once again come together in active ministry now that COVID restrictions are past and the remodel is complete. Continuing to value, appreciate, and care for our Church Workers should be an on-going priority. A continual prayer of mine is that more people will take the time to identify their spiritual gifts and then find ways to use them that benefit the Kingdom work at St. Paul's. It is exciting to see our Spanish speaking membership grow. God is blessing this part of our ministry as we cultivate these relationships. I am excited for our new DCE and the talents he will bring to St. Paul's. I am eager to see who God sends us to fill other open positions. This is an optimum time to look at our ministries and how we conduct them, always striving to improve how we live out the Great Commission.



**Candidate: Paul Marlow**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

27 years. In 1999, my wife (Annabelle) and I were married at St. Paul's and both of our children were baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's.

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

Both our children are St. Paul's-bred, having attended the ECDC starting in 2002, then St. Paul's Lutheran School (K-8), and then both attended and graduated from Orange Lutheran High School.

At both the ECDC and SPLS both my wife and I were actively involved in regularly volunteering as 'room parents' and supporting various extracurricular events and activities. We also enjoy supporting the various giving opportunities, such as Canning for Hunger, Christmas 'Giving-Tree' gifts donations, as well as food pantry donations. We regularly support VBS with supply donations, and our children have helped many years as week-long volunteers during VBS.

**What is/was your occupation?**

Manager, Information Technology

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

I have been heavily involved in youth sports (coaching, refereeing, and administration) - and served on various leadership committees for local AYSO Region (Division Coordinator - 2 years) and for a local club soccer team (Legacy FC - Board Member - 2 years).

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

- Have a Commitment to Obedience of God's Word: To ensure that St. Paul's is always working towards our mission to 'Gather', 'Grow', and 'Go', and making sure all decisions are guided by prayer and Scripture.
- Provide Council and Support Church Leadership: The Board should strive to work well together, as a high-functioning group that helps the Pastors with analyzing current conditions and challenges so they can act with wisdom and agility.
- Act as Good Stewards for the Congregation: Board members should prayerfully and carefully consider the context and facts of each decision, ensuring that matters are soundly vetted so that all decisions made are anchored in the best interests of the congregation.



**Candidate: Deb Mercier**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's? since 1983**

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

I have served St. Paul's as the chairperson of the Board of Education (approx. 3 years), Interim Principal (1 year), and Assistant Principal (2 years), and most recently as a member of the 2022 Strat Ops committee and the Principal Call Committee. She has served the Lutheran community as a member of the Board of Directors for Lutheran High School of Orange County. (6 years).

**What is/was your occupation?**

In addition to my role in administration of St. Paul's, my career included 10 years as a teacher in the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District, 34 years as a business owner of two education companies (educational therapy and emergency medical education), and 22 years as a professor of education and ultimately Dean of Education at Concordia University, Irvine.

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

She has served the Lutheran community as a member of the Board of Directors for Lutheran High School of Orange County. (6 years). During my time at Concordia, I served on many administrative boards, including the Executive Council.

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

My passion is in supporting learning and growth across the lifespan as exemplified in the book of Acts. I am interested in developing and expanding St. Paul's existing programs as they serve the needs of growing children, families, and adults of all ages, cultural backgrounds, and walks of life.



**Candidate: Richard "Randy" Ransom**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

10 years

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

Feed My Starving Children Logistics Coordinator; Men's Ministry Retreat Planning Team; and Kids Night Out Team/Volunteer.

**What is/was your occupation?**

Manager OSP Design Engineer for AT&T

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

- AT&T Pioneers De Anza Chapter in Southern California since 1990
- Project Chair for AT&T Pioneers Orange County school map painting donations
- AT&T Pioneers Blind Children's Center Easter Egg Hunt event coordinator
- Southwest Community Center Christmas Gift for underprivileged children volunteer
- 2nd Baptist Church, Santa Ana, Senior Ladies Luncheon Gift Donation Coordinator

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

I am looking forward to the growth of our congregation, post Covid and post sanctuary renovation. I am eager for unchurched/non-member school families to join our church ministry, and for our church ministry to flourish at our school.

I look forward to joining the Board of Directors and Pastor C to streamline the church budget and participate in making contributions to the economic and financial sustainability of St. Paul's. I want St. Paul's to continue with a successful ministry for my children and, someday, grandchildren.



**Candidate: David Riley**

**Position: Vice President**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

31 years

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

Friends In Serving Him home Bible study; small group leader for Red Letter Challenge and Forgiving Challenge; St. Paul's Board of Directors Member at Large; Endowment Fund Committee, Building for the Future Campaign Committee; Board of Elders; and Board of Finance.

**What is/was your occupation?**

Fullerton College – Mathematics/Computer Science, Professor Emeritus

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

Vice President – Immanuel Lutheran Church, Orange

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

- Reflect integrity by leading and following God's will.
- Live a life of obedience and purity.
- Always be open and listen to our church' members.
- I support one type of worship service where everyone is loving God and each other in both word and song. It is possible to blend our tradition and contemporary styles of worship.
- I would like to see more involvement of our church members.



**Candidate: Nick Seierup**

**Position: President**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

I was a member of St Paul's and a student in St Paul's school back in the mid-1960's when our sanctuary was first built, and I was confirmed here by Pastor Knaus. I moved away to go to college when I saw the young Pastor Martin riding up on a motorcycle. I returned when I started a family and rejoined in 2005 with my wife Susie and our two sons, Halden and Christian, who were both confirmed here.

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

I have represented the St. Paul's congregation the past four years on the Board of Directors, where I sit currently as Vice President and Chair of the Endowment Committee. I have enjoyed serving for many years as an usher (with my wife and sons) and as a deacon assisting the pastors. I was part of the Sanctuary Renovation team, participated in the Board of Properties for a bit, have attended several Men's Retreats, joined in a youth mission trip to Mexico and loved working the St Paul's booth at the annual Street Festival while it was running.

**What is/was your occupation?**

I am an architect, and very recently retired from my position as Design Principal at the Los Angeles office of the international firm of Perkins & Will, where I worked for nearly 25 years. (YAY!)

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

Past leadership positions include serving on the Board of Directors for the American Institute of Architects Los Angeles for 5 years, including as President in 2000; I served on the Board of Trustees of my alma mater SCI-Arc (the Southern California Institute of Architecture) for 18 years; and have served on the Boards of the USC Architectural Guild and the Architecture and Design Museum in Los Angeles.

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

We are blessed at St Paul's to have a congregation that spans from early childhood to more than a few elder statespersons from my parent's generation, including several retired pastors. Under Pastor C's leadership, as an inclusive congregational family we have weathered COVID, staffing shuffles and other challenges and are emerging with a beautifully transformed sanctuary and positive momentum including a growing Hispanic ministry led by Pastor Carlos. We can once again inspirational GATHER; now we need to GROW our congregational and financial strengths in order to GO as Christians. Our Board consists of a dedicated group of individuals who offer a wide range of viewpoints and experiences to the responsibility of fiscal leadership. All are valued and respected. If elected I will seek to support the Pastors and our School and ECDC leadership in this mission and continue to bring a balanced perspective to the table, ensuring St Paul's is a treasured part of spiritual life in Orange for generations to come.



**Candidate: Karla Siefkes**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

50 plus years

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

I was Youth Group President, a Sunday School Teacher, VBS Leader, was asked to counsel families with at risk youth, and a Street Fair Volunteer.

**What is/was your occupation?**

I was a Counselor/Supervisor/Deputy Probation Officer II for the County of Orange for 31 years. I am retired.

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

While attending Lutheran High School I was an Editor for the school newspaper. In college I was on my Sorority Board for two years; on the Boards for Orange Junior Soccer Club and Orange Bobby Sox for multiple years; PTAs multiple years; Delta Zeta Alumni Board for 6 years (4 as VP) and Delta Zeta House Corporation Board for 3 years (2 as President).

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

It has been an honor to serve on the Board of Directors and I hope to continue in my role as Member at Large. I look to continue to support Pastor C, the Church and School staff members and all Board members by representing the vision of the congregation and the Mission of St. Paul's. I am comfortable talking with and listening to members. Working to answer questions and resolve concerns has been and will continue to be a goal of mine. As we move forward in filling open staff positions it will be important to find candidates that are not just qualified but that want to grow our programs. We are blessed with many in our congregation that have filled in and set great examples of service and faith. Many thanks to all of them. St Paul's has provided opportunities for a variety of worship services, Bible study, men's/women's groups, youth groups and Senior programs. Maintaining and even adding to them will strengthen our foundation and fellowship. Our newly renovated Sanctuary shows our investment in our congregation and the community. Now we need to work together to fill it.



**Candidate: Robyn Strohschein**

**Position: Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

Since 2016.

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

I am currently on the Principal Advisory Committee for the school with Jackson Theisfeldt.

**What is/was your occupation?**

I am a Department of Special Programs and Services Teacher at Orange Lutheran High School.

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

No, I have not.

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

My parents were teachers in the Lutheran Church, so I understand the ministry and the hard work that goes into keeping our churches and schools alive. We are called to share the Word of Christ as we go about our daily lives. To do this, we need to do things well and stay focused on Christ. It is important to have accountability within our church to be able to share the Word of God for many years to come. I love the ministry at St. Paul's and feel blessed to be a part of it in any capacity.



**Candidate: David Talmage**

**Position: Vice President  
Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

64 years

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

Board Directors 2014-2015; Board of Directors 2017-2018; Board of Elders; Board of Youth; Pastoral Call Committee; Golf Tournament Director – 12 years; Coffee Counter; Donut Ministry.

**What is/was your occupation?**

Business Manager, Acosta Group

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

Current President – Food Industries Sales Managers Club of Southern California

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

As I sit in church on any given Sunday morning and look around, I see so many new faces and then realize how many of the members I knew growing up are no longer with us, including many members of my own family. I also note that I, for the most part, have been a member of St. Paul's longer than the majority of members on any given Sunday. With that being said, coming from a family who attended St. Paul's on the hill and watching our Sanctuary being built in the 60's, I can only smile now at our far we have come. We have a beautiful new church, that we still are struggling to fill on Sunday morning. We need to return to our roots of stewardship. God calls us to be good stewards, meaning we are to "utilize and manage all resources He provides for His glory and the betterment of His creation." Being a good steward of God's blessings requires certain characteristics, or virtues. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." Five characteristics of good stewardship are: Confidence (Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about we do not see), Humility, Trust, Forgiveness and Obedience. I am extremely proud to be a long-time member of St. Paul's Church and School and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board of Directors once again.



**Candidate: John Wellen**

**Position: Vice President  
Member-at-Large**

**How long have you been a member at St. Paul's?**

I have been a member for about 12 years.

**What committees, ministries and/or activities are you currently or have you previously been involved in?**

I'm currently serving in the worship choir and Men's chorus and as a regular Scripture reader. I also serve in the coffee bar and assist with donut pickup. My wife and I will also begin serving as Deacons this summer.

**What is/was your occupation?**

My official title is Platform Architect, but I'm in Technology Consulting specifically around the Cloud and Infrastructure Technologies.

**Outside of St. Paul's, have you ever been directly involved with a Board of Directors or similar leadership position? If you have, what position(s) did you hold, and for how long?**

I have held leadership positions (Director & Team Lead) in my profession for many (approximately 8+) years at multiple companies. Most of these focused on building Consulting practices and growing them to be sustainable businesses within a larger organization. I also have been working at building my own consulting business on the side to help organizations with part-time tasks.

**As you reflect on the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, please describe the vision you would present to the congregation to help God's Kingdom at St. Paul's.**

My vision for St. Paul's is to continue the good work that is currently underway by transitioning to more contemporary worship formats and focus more on that direction. While there is still a place for traditional worship, the world is engaged more by contemporary formats with full worship bands. This has been a great change that St. Paul's has recently made moving to 2 contemporary services on Sundays. As far as other parts of my vision, I would look to promote greater engagement from members in church activities by finding volunteer roles and serving opportunities that fit each individual or family. I also plan to encourage church members to be more active in their faith by participating in church groups and spreading the word about St. Paul's in the community. As someone who doesn't live local to Orange, my vision for St. Paul's would be to spread the news about great things going on at our church in the communities adjacent to Orange and further. I strongly feel that St. Paul's is a hidden gem with so much to offer members and visitors. Last, I feel there are additional ministries we can investigate such as young adult groups, college groups and others. We also can look towards finding additional serving opportunities in the community of Orange and North Orange County.