MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
International Lutheran Laymen's League

Hilton Scottsdale Resort and Villas
6333 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250 Friday, July 17, 2026

In Attendance: Kurt Senske, Chairman; Donald Scifres, Vice Chairman; Linda Arnold, Secretary; Karl Abraham; Melanie Braun; Jim Dankenbring; Mark Duesenberg; Vincent James; Gordon Tresch; LHM CEO Kurt Buchholz, Ex Officio; LLL-Canada Managing Director Lisa Jackson; Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tom Pfotenhauer, Ex Officio

Not in Attendance: Kirk Farney, Treasurer; Mary Scott; Ron Wheeler; LCC Liaison Paul Zabel

LHM staff in attendance at request of CEO: Tony Cook, Global Chief Research & Innovation Officer; Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, Global Chief Administrative Officer; Jonathan Klimpel, Director of Finance and Accounting; David Lanius, Chief Financial Officer; Joanna Lupo, Executive Assistant; Karin Semler, Global Chief Ministry Officer; Sarah Willis, Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer

01 Kurt Senske, Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:00 AM MST.

02 Chairman Senske invited Tom Pfotenhauer, Pastoral Advisor, to lead an opening devotion. Pastoral Advisor Pfotenhauer led a devotion based on Isaiah 1:17, reflecting on themes discussed during the previous day's holistic ministry workshop.

03 Chairman Senske announced the two new Board members who were elected in the spring election, Mary Scott and Ron Wheeler, but were unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

04 Linda Arnold, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, led the process to appoint the Chairman of the Board for 2026-2027.

Committee Chair Arnold reported that Kurt Senske, Don Scifres, and Kirk Farney received nominations for Board Chairman. Scifres and Farney removed their names from consideration.

M 2026/27-01 By acclamation, Kurt Senske was appointed as Chairman of the Board.

05 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Vice Chairman of the Board for 2026-2027. Advance nominations had been received for Don Scifres, Melanie Braun, Mark Duesenberg, and Kirk Farney. Braun, Duesenberg, and Farney removed their names from consideration.

M 2026/27-02 By acclamation, Don Scifres was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Board.

06 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Treasurer of the Board for 2026-2027. Advance nominations had been received for Kirk Farney, Melanie Braun, and Mark Duesenberg. Braun and Duesenberg removed their names from consideration.

M 2026/27-03 By acclamation, Kirk Farney was appointed as Treasurer of the Board.

07 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Secretary of the Board for 2026-2027. Advance nominations had been received for Linda Arnold, Mark Duesenberg, and Karl Abraham. Duesenberg and Abraham removed their names from consideration.

M 2026/27-04 By acclamation, Linda Arnold was appointed as Secretary of the Board.

08 Chairman Senske led the process to appoint the Board Representative to the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees for 2026-2027. Advance nominations were received for Kirk Farney, Mark Duesenberg, Melanie Braun, Gordon Tresch, and Vincent James. Farney, Duesenberg, Braun, and Tresch removed their names from consideration.

M 2026/27-05 By acclamation, Vincent James was appointed as Board Representative to the LHM Foundation Board of Trustees.

M 2025/26-06 Motion was made to approve the consent agenda, including: Approval of Meeting Agenda; Approval of April 2026 Meeting Minutes; Approval of Ratification of Nominations Committee Email Vote to Accept Election Results.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

09 Chairman Senske led a discussion on feedback from the July 16, 2026 Board retreat. Comments focused on how the workshop provided a different perspective and equipped everyone to be better Board members.

10 On behalf of Kirk Farney, Treasurer, Chairman Senske invited David Lanius, CFO, to present the FY 2026 financial results.

CFO Lanius presented the organization's FY2026 year-end preliminary financial report and Key Performance Indicators, noting an operating income 4.25MM above projection and 41% increase in net assets over last year. He reported a strong year for the LHM Foundation, with endowment gifts of more than 4.3MM.

The current cash flow status was reviewed, as well as the demographic and timeline of estate gifts. Plans for surplus income were discussed, including actions taken so far and proposed plans for the remaining surplus. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.

Vice Chairman Scifres presented Resolution 1 to the Board for recommendation on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Resolution 1:
Whereas the Board seeks to mitigate operational and ministry continuity risks associated with the death or other unexpected inability of key staff members to continue serving the organization;

Be it resolved that the Board authorizes staff to create a Board-designated Business Continuity Reserve Fund to replace the current key-person insurance policies, with an initial balance of $750,000, to be reserved from the FY2026 operating surplus, with earnings to be distributed to the organization only when the balance is greater than this amount; and

Be it further resolved that the Board can approve the release of funds for operational support in the event that the death, incapacitation, sudden departure, or other inability to work of key staff causes adverse impact to the ministry; and

Be it further resolved that, in the event that the fund has been accessed, staff will present a replenishment plan to restore the fund to its required balance within 24 months.

M 2026/27-07 Motion was made to approve Resolution 1.

Motion passed by voice vote.

Vice Chairman Scifres presented Resolution 2 to the Board for recommendation on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Resolution 2:
Whereas the Board previously passed M2025/2026-23 deferring up to $1,500,000 from the FY2026 surplus to support expanded ministry efforts in the FY2027 budget,

Be it resolved that the amount approved in Resolution M2025/26-23 is hereby increased to authorize management to transfer an additional amount of up to $1,000,000 from the FY2026 operating surplus to Board-designated deferred income, increasing the total authorized transfer from up to $1,500,000 to up to $2,500,000, in order to provide additional budget support for expanded ministry efforts in the FY2027 and FY2028 budgets.

M 2026/27-08 Motion was made to approve Resolution 2.

Motion passed by voice vote.

Vice Chairman Scifres presented Resolution 3 to the Board for recommendation on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Resolution 3:
Whereas the Board desires to strengthen the ministry's long-term financial sustainability;

Be it resolved that the Board authorizes staff to establish a Board-designated endowment fund in the amount of $1,500,000, to be funded from the FY2026 operating surplus.

M 2026/27-09 Motion was made to approve Resolution 3.

Motion passed by voice vote.

11 CEO Buchholz reported on the organization's successful financial year and outlined plans to analyze and research the best way to utilize the gifts for the future. He also reviewed the impact of the SENT and CONNECT initiatives and shared initial thoughts for a future initiative. Secretary Linda Arnold concluded the report with a prayer.

12 Karin Semler, Global Chief Ministry Officer, reported that Øystein Samnøen joined Lutheran Hour Ministries to serve as President of Europe & Central Asia Regional Ministries and provided a brief professional background.

13 CEO Buchholz invited Lara Heisohn-Sidorski, Global Chief Administrative Officer, to present an update on the organization's key performance indicators for FY 2026.

Global CAO Heisohn-Sidorski reported to the Board on the updated Gift Acceptance Policy, as required annually per Board policy.

Global CAO Heisohn-Sidorski reported on the organization's KPI performance in FY 2026, which included an increase in all metrics year over year except engaged constituents. The Board asked questions and discussed throughout the presentation.

14 Chairman Senske invited Lisa Jackson, LLL-Canada Managing Director, to give her report.

LLL-Canada Managing Director Jackson provided ministry updates, including the Passing the Faith Forward intergenerational mentorship program, Fellowship without Borders at the LCC Convention, the launch of the ServingwithJoy.net website and its toolkits for those looking to host servant events, and the official launch of Lutheran Hour Canada streaming. She also introduced the summer interns. The Board discussed and asked questions throughout the presentation.

15 Chairman Senske requested the Board members sign the annual code of ethics and conflict of interest statements as required annually per Board policy.

16 Chairman Senske presented his committee assignment recommendations for the 2026-2027 League year.

17 Chairman Senske reported that the Executive Committee met prior to the July Board meeting.

18 Gordon Tresch, Chair of the Board Development Committee, reported on the Board self-evaluation results. Action items were reviewed and discussed, including the recommendation to continue to use the updated survey for the next few years.

19 Linda Arnold, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the committee did not meet.

20 Chairman Senske reviewed the future meeting schedule of Board events and meetings, asking all members to let him or CEO Buchholz know about any conflicts so that adjustments can be made.

Future Meeting Schedule:

- October 22-23, 2026 – St. Louis, MO
- January 22, 2027 – Online
- April 22-23, 2027 – St. Louis, MO
- July 15-16, 2027 – St. Louis, MO
- October 21-22, 2027 – St. Louis, MO
- January 28, 2028 – Online
- April 20-21, 2028 – St. Louis, MO
- July 20-21, 2028 – St. Louis, MO

M 2026/27-10 Motion was made to approve the Resolutions to Elect Sub-Corporation Directors and Officers and the Annual Meeting Minutes of the Sub-Corporations as presented.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

M 2026/27-11 Motion was made to enter Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

M 2026/27-12 Motion was made to leave Executive Session.

Motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

21 Gordon Tresch led a closing prayer.

22 Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM MST.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Arnold, Secretary