IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL — Wentzville (ILCS-Wentzville)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: August 15, 2026

BY: Bonnie Schulte, Secretary 2027

PRESENT: Tom Guenzler, Chair, 2027
Carol Waddell, Treasurer 2028
Scott Alexander, Board Member 2028
Rick Leitz, Board Member 2029
Dave Liefer, Board Member 2029
Susan Maag, Board Member 2028
Karen Modde, Board Member 2029
Brian Parker, Board Member 2027

Jason Auringer, Senior Pastor
Allison Dolak, School Principal
Sam Pitsch, Associate Pastor
Tom Roma, Associate Pastor
Dan Ebert, Executive Director of Finance
Russ Hoppe, Executive Director of Facilities

Guest: None

Absent: Tammy Brenningmeyer, Assistant Principal

CC: File – Dropbox
ILCSW.net website

The following minutes express my understanding of the items discussed. Please respond within five days of receipt with any required changes.

If any action is required, the name indicates the party responsible, and the date indicates the due date.

Board of Directors (BOD) Chair Tom Guenzler called the Workshop to order at 9 a.m.

Pastor Auringer opened the meeting with readings and comments on passages from Psalm 62 and 70 and Acts 7, and with prayer.

Consent Agenda
Approval of Minutes – Two corrections were noted to the July 21, 2026, meeting minutes:

- For clarity purposes regarding the Update Concerning Utilization of LCEF Resources for Future Planning, it was noted that Immanuel Lutheran Church-Wentzville is in conversation with LCEF Real Estate Solutions and not LCEF Resources.
- Under the motion to adjourn the July 21, 2026, Board meeting, Rick Leitz's name is spelled incorrectly, i.e., Lietz.

ACTION: Susan Maag made the motion to approve the July 21, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes as corrected. Scott Alexander seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report — Carol Waddell noted that church giving details are included with Dan Ebert's financial report. In the interest of time for today's workshop agenda, a July dashboard report will be presented at the September BOD meeting.

Financial Reports – Executive Director of Finance Dan Ebert provided an update on:
- Church giving, mortgage contributions, and school tuition, and expenses
- Moving the School from a cash basis to an accrual basis of reporting
- An adjustment to the reported 2025-2026 surplus due to the reconciliation and proper recording of school finances in the new FACTS system, i.e., a couple of payments were put into the wrong school year. Surplus approximately $15,000 less than originally reported, i.e., $226,276.

ACTION: Brian Parker made the motion to file financial reports for audit. Scott Alexander seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Workshop Business
Policy-Based Governance and Relationship Between MLT and BOD – Guest Speaker
Jason Auringer introduced Rev. Gerry Harrow, LCMS pastor and consultant, who then led a workshop reviewing policy-based governance principles, including what a team looks like in a congregation of Immanuel's size. The group discussed the role of Immanuel's Board and how it relates to the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) within the scope of creating the big picture, setting broad policies, and defining strategic plans to provide more alignment and cohesion in ministry.

Strategic Plan Review –
Jason Auringer provided a strategic plan update surrounding a current and future framework involving the Board of Directors and MLT relationship, the ministry's leadership and administrative structure, identification of needed positions and job descriptions, a capital campaign for campus growth, land acquisition and building expansion, and building a strategic planning team.

Discussion regarding the next phase of the current Long-Term Planning Committee (aka Long-Range Planning Committee) established in 2022. Committee members at that time were Tom Ruff, chair, Vern Boehme, Russ Hoppe, Becky Hoskins, Rod Kumm (now deceased), and John Waddell. Dan Ebert recommended consideration be given to addressing trends in the following areas:
- Growth/changes to our community that includes Wentzville, New Melle, and impacts of changes to Highway N
- New LCMS congregations and those congregations struggling
- Public policy and tax implications

- Struggles internal to Immanuel and long-term trends, such as attendance, automated collections, etc.

ACTION: Invite Tom Ruff to the September BOD meeting for a committee review, including suggested next steps.

ACTION: Firm up current goals and objectives of the current Building Committee-Expansion Project. Discussion tabled for the September BOD meeting.

Allison Dolak commented on the National Lutheran School Accreditation Cumulative Annual Report (Revised March 2025), and on the 2026-2027 school year.

Board of Directors Business

Establish Committee to Review and Edit ILCSW Board Policies – Tom Guenzler brought forward the recommendation to establish a sub-committee to review and recommend updates of the ILCSW Board Policies and Immanuel Lutheran Church-Wentzville's Constitution. Target date to present recommended updates to Immanuel stewards at the January 2027 Voters Meeting. Committee members appointed: Bonnie Schulte, Karen Modde, and Rick Leitz.

ACTION: Susan Maag made the motion to appoint a sub-committee as described by Chair Tom Guenzler to review and present recommendations for Board Policies and Constitution updates. Scott Alexander seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Set Agenda for September 28, 2026, Voters Meeting – Tom Guenzler brought forward recommendations for the Voters Meeting agenda, including ministry updates, Immanuel-Wentzville campus expansion and Capital Campaign update, recommended allocation of 2025-2026 surplus funds, committee appointed to review ILCSW Board Policies and Constitution.

Set Special Voters Meeting – Russ Hoppe brought forward the Land Acquisition Committee's request for a Special Voters Meeting on Sunday, August 30, 2026, at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

- Agenda: To approve granting four (4) easements on the west and south sides of Immanuel's property so that the developer can move forward with the extension of Perry Cate Boulevard and bring sewer lines from the Duckett Creek Sanitary District Plant to Immanuel's property.
- The Land Acquisition Committee will provide more details on these easements at the voters meeting and will include explanation of how this interrelates with the impending contract on the purchase of the property to the north of Immanuel's property.

Additional consideration of approval of a contract involving LCEF Real Estate Services in the development and execution of our building plans may also be considered at this time. Details to follow.

ACTION: Special Voters Meeting to be announced to Immanuel stewards beginning Saturday/Sunday, August 22-23.

Discuss Allocation of Surplus 2025-2026 Funds – Discussion tabled to the September Board of

Directors meeting.

Discuss Capital Campaign, Building Committee, Land Acquisition, LCEF-LRP –

- Russ Hoppe reported on the recent Land Acquisition Committee meeting. See comments under Set Special Voters Meeting above.
- Dave Liefer reported on the Building Committee's July 29, 2026, meeting with LCEF to review and discuss revisions to the Real Estate Solutions proposal. Committee members made revisions of the LCEF proposal, which was submitted to LCEF. Committee work will continue after the final proposal is revised and/or accepted.

Celebration Sharing and Additional Comments
Board members shared celebrations.

ACTION: At approximately 8:59 a.m. Carol Waddell made the motion to extend the meeting agenda to 1:10 p.m. to address the remaining agenda items. Karen Modde seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

BOD SELF-REVIEW

The Board conducted their Self-Review.

Pastor Jason Auringer closed the meeting leading the group in the Lord's Prayer.

There being no further business, Susan Maag made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Scott Alexander seconded the motion. Motion approved by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.

Upcoming Dates:
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 25, Engage Event: Soul'd Out Trio
11:30 a.m. Sunday, August 30, Special Voters Meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, September 15, BOD Meeting
7 p.m. Monday, September 28, Voters Meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, October 20, 2026, BOD Meeting
7 p.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2026, BOD Meeting