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## **St. Luke's president Ed Dahlberg to retire**

*Ed Dahlberg, who has been with the hospital since 1985, is working to ensure a smooth transition.*

The retiring president of St. Luke's Health System oversaw two decades of change as a small regional hospital in Boise mushroomed into four hospitals spanning southern and central Idaho. Ed Dahlberg, 60, president and CEO, said he will stay as long as March 2010 to make the transition to a new leader smooth.

"While it will be difficult to fill his shoes, he has given us a generous timeline to plan the transition," said Skip Oppenheimer, chairman of the hospital board.

The transition committee expects to have a slate of qualified candidates identified next spring and a final selection by late 2009. The announcement means the Treasure Valley's biggest hospitals, St. Luke's and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, both will see transitions to new top executives in the next few years.

At Saint Al's, CEO Sandra Bruce, 63, announced last month that she would leave in October, after 12 years as CEO, to take the reins of the largest Catholic health care system in Illinois. Saint Al's has launched a nationwide search for Bruce's replacement. In the meantime, Janelle Reilly, Saint Al's chief operating officer, is to assume her duties.

Dahlberg, 60, said he wasn't thinking yet of what he would do after retirement. "The difference here is we are going to make that transition from one leader to another without a void in between," he said. "We are not going to be leaderless at St. Luke's for any period of time."

Dahlberg has worked at St. Luke's since 1985. "Gil" Gilbertson, now 80, led the hospital for 27 years before handing the reins to Dahlberg. "I'm his biggest fan, and he knows that," Gilbertson said Wednesday.