**Minutes – United Church of Ludlow**

**Annual Meeting**

**November 10, 2013**

**Attendees:**

The meeting opened with 24 members in attendance, a quorum.

**Minutes:**

Bob Kottkamp, President of the Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 11:45 A.M. Pastor Don Harpster offered a prayer. The minutes of the prior Annual Meeting on November 4, 2012 were read and on a motion by George Thomson and second by Lisha Klaiber were accepted.

**President’s Perspective:**

Bob opened his message with an update on the Agan Trust Supreme Court decision which is still pending. He reiterated the position of the case whereby if the Court goes against us, the Church will benefit from the original terms of the will at $50,000. If we are successful in the case, the Church’s Building Fund will inherit $150,000.

His positive elements of the year dealt with the strong financial position of the Church. While still operating in a deficit, he is heartened by the fact we are headed in a good direction. The establishment of a new website produced by David Hearne gives the Church a wonderful face to the Community and he thanked Sandra Russo and Fred Marin for making this possible. Third, he was happy to announce how fortunate the Church is for the services of our Church Secretary, Sandra Russo.

Bob presented his views on his Church activities throughout the year, including the attendance of Church members at the Vermont Supreme Court Agan Trust hearing and his attendance with Pastor Harpster at the Annual Meeting of the UCC Vermont Conference. He recapped the Church’s activities throughout the year.

He presented the Executive Board’s projects for the coming year which include a new “front yard” sign for the Church, new lighting for the sanctuary, the creation of a new restroom, cleaning and moving the Church office to the old library/nursery room, creating a wish list of items that may be supported through memorial donations, and becoming an institutional sponsor of a Cub Scout Pack. He gave his thanks to all Deacons, Trustees and Officers for their faithful service.

**Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor gave special thanks to Sandy Peplau for her wonderful leadership of the Deacons. He cited the United Church Women’s gift of a new stole for his use. In the spring, the Bible Study subject for Lent will be “The Last Week of Jesus’ Life”.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Lisha Klaiber presented the financial position of the Church with special emphasis on the $2,749 net profit for the fiscal year. She cited a $7,000 increase in Estimates of Giving and other related donations to the Church. She cited the Executive Board’s decision to move the funds obtained from the sale of the Parish House from the Sentinel Funds to LP Financial mixed funds due to a six month poor performance.

She reiterated her position that the Church should not undertake major construction projects in the next fiscal year until resolution of the Agan Trust suit. On a motion by Carolyn Gauthier and second by David Almond, the treasurer’s report was passed after a discussion and clarification of the Heifer Funds donations.

There was no Receiver of Offerings Report, but Bob thanked Anne Oakes for her efforts through the year.

**Altar Guild Report:**

Special thanks were given to Laura Caravatt for her wonderful floral arrangements. On a motion by David Almond and second by Lisha Klaiber, the report was accepted.

**United Church Women Report:**

In lieu of a formal report, a treasurer’s report was submitted documenting the United Women’s activities and financial position. Their balance as of September 30, 2013 was $2,724.60. On a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by Linda Thomson, the report was accepted.

**Deacon’s Report:**

The report from Sandy Peplau was read and again with special thanks to Sandy for all her efforts was accepted on a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by David Almond.

**Membership Committee Report:**

This report prepared by Bob Kottkamp consists of Bob, David Almond and Carl and Nancy Hagge, whose terms of office have expired. All have consented to continue on this committee for the next year. On a motion by George Thomson and second by Lisha Klaiber this report was accepted, with a final plea from Bob encouraging more to join in this important committee.

**Audit Committee Report:**

With thanks to Jean Eggleston and Lee Potter for its preparation, the report was accepted on a motion from Linda Thomson and second by Carolyn Gauthier.

**2014 Slate of Officers:**

The Slate of Officers was presented and on a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by Iggy Matulonis. It was voted to accept this slate as a whole. This motion passed.

Bob Kottkamp introduced a discussion on the subject of the Cub Scouts and Yoga program using the Church property for their meetings without a usage charge. While the Cub Scouts do not charge their families, it was thought the Yoga Program might involve a fee for their participants. If this is the case it was felt by the membership that a fee should be imposed. The Executive Board will seek further details and make a decision.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 on a motion by David Almond and second by Lisha Klaiber.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Liao, Clerk