**Minutes – United Church of Ludlow**

**Annual Meeting**

**November 15, 2015**

**Attendees:**

The meeting opened with 26 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 of November 9, 2014 were read and on a motion by Lisha Klaiber and second by David Almond, the minutes were accepted.

**President’s Perspective:**

Bob Kottkamp walked us through his perspective of the Church in 2015 citing this was a “Year of the Building” as actions followed the recommendations in the Capital Needs Assessment in: completing construction of two new restrooms; stabilization of the floor under the social hall; repair of the concrete block in part of the back foundation wall, refurbishing of the bulkhead walls and removal of ineffective rain aprons around the foundation and installation of new concrete ones; the construction of a new Church lawn sign and flower box and flowers by Andy Ohotnicky and Anne Oakes; electrical work on the outdoor sermon message board, rewiring sanctuary lights and new lighting for pulpit & organ areas and lighting the belfry at night; replacing missing slates on the roof and cleaning the carpets.

He thanked Sandy Peplau for organizing the Christmas Eve Candle Light service program; Pastor Harpster for leading the Lenten study session “The Hour of the Tiger; the Women of the Church for their donation of a badly need vacuum cleaner for the Church; secretary Sandra Russo for her dedicated service despite serious medical issues; Sandy Peplau, Laura Lienhard, George Thomson, Ed Boadway, Judy Edwards for putting together the worship service following Johanna Harpster’s kidney transplant; to Deacons Kathy Doyle and Brenda Dansingburg and Trustee Dick Dansingburg for faithful completion of their terms of office; to the Women of the Church for their years of service . He reported regretfully last August’s fundraising flea market/luncheon would be their last. Jean Eggleston interrupted at this point, stating she would continue the fund raiser in 2016, provided she has sufficient help.

He ended with the following thought from the General Synod of the Windham-Union Association:

**Be the Church:** Protect the environment. Care for the poor. Forgive often. Reject racism. Fight for the powerless. Share earthly and spiritual resources. Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

**Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor Harpster thanked his congregation family for the many prayers, food donations and cards received on behalf of Johanna Harpster and her family, with special thanks to Reverend Bruce Bishop for his friendship and his ministry at Dartmouth Medical Center.

He was particularly gratified with the response to the Reformation Day service and the many donations made to the Church. He was pleased with the attendance at the Lenten Study program on “The Hour of the Tiger: Facing our Fears”. The subject of the 2016 Lenten Study will be World Religions with the firm belief that we learn to appreciate our faith even more deeply when we let other faiths speak to us.

He expressed pleasure at being our pastor and looks forward to another year of ministry at the United Church of Ludlow.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Lisha Klaiber presented the Church’s financial position for 2015 stating a projected net loss of almost $12,250 came in as a loss of about $2,655. Offerings were slightly higher than the 2013/14 fiscal year and indicated the memorial donations given for Reformation Sunday significantly helped to decrease our deficit for the year.

She proceeded to present the proposed budget for 2015-2016 line by line projecting a deficit for the coming year of about $13,675. She indicated the funds were to be removed from the LPL Financial account and transferred to a Vanguard account on the Executive Boards direction. Over the period from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, there was a net loss of about $4,600. She reported $633 net proceeds for the previous evening’s fund raising Church supper. On a motion from George Thomson and second from Lee Potter, the proposed budget was adopted.

**United Church Women’s Report:**

A financial statement from the United Church Women was presented reflecting a balance of $2,888 as of September 30, 2015 with Income amounting to $1,282 from donations and proceeds from the flea market and luncheon. Total expenses were $1,167.

**Outreach/Missions Committee Report:**

The report reflected the committee’s disbursement of $4,000 distributed as follows $1,750 to Malayaka House as their Global outreach; $1,750 to Black River Good Neighbors as their Local outreach and $500 to disaster relief in Nepal. On a motion from David Almond and second by George Thomson this report was accepted.

**Altar Guild Report:**

Jean Eggleston gave thanks to the current membership of the Altar Guild, Laura Caravatt and Brenda Dansingburg, with particular thanks to Laura Caravatt for her beautiful flower arrangements all summer; to Anne Oakes and Andy Ohotnicky for their fall arrangement for Harvest Sunday and to Linda Thomson for Christmas and Easter flowers for the Church. On a motion from George Thomson and second by Lisha Klaiber this report was accepted.

**Deacon’s Report:**

This report reflected two Deacon lunches in October and June. Sandy Peplau thanked Laura Lienhard for organizing the ushers and communion servers schedule; to Anne Oakes for heading the Friend-in-Faith Card Ministry and to Bruce Bishop, Jeremy Schrauf and George Thomson who lead us in worship in Pastor’s absence. Sandy has indicated she will orchestrate the Christmas Eve Candle Light service and will arrange participants in the lighting of the Advent candles. On a motion from David Almond and second by Lisha Klaiber this report was accepted.

**Audit Committee Report:**

Lee Potter and Jean Eggleston presented their report of the Church’s financial position with special thanks to Lisha Klaiber as Treasurer. This report was accepted on a motion from Lisha Klaiber and George Thomson.

**2016 Slate of Officers**

Bob Kottkamp presented the Slate of Officers to the congregation and on a motion from George Thomson and second by Fred Marin, the Slate was accepted.

The motion to adjourn was made by Lisha Klaiber and second by Fred Marin.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Liao, Clerk