**Minutes – United Church of Ludlow**

**Annual Meeting**

**November 12, 2016**

**Attendees:**

The meeting opened with 29 members in attendance, a quorum.

**Minutes:**

Bob Kottkamp, President of the Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 12:20 P.M. Pastor Don Harpster offered a prayer. The minutes of the prior Annual Meeting on November 15, 2015 were read and on a motion by George Thomson and second by Lisha Klaiber, the minutes were accepted.

**Pastor’s Report:**

Pastor Harpster presented his report, with thanks to the congregation for their support during Johanna’s difficult medical year, his sadness over the loss of Ed Boadway and his contribution to our Church and his delight at the acquisition of Catherine Fullenwider. He presented the subject of the 2017 Lenten Study Program, focusing on Christianity’s most famous prayer, The Lord’s Prayer. Using John Dominic Crossan’s, “The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord’s Prayer”, these sessions will occur on Wednesday afternoons starting in March. He thanked members of the congregation for their talents and gifts with special thanks to Robert Kottkamp for his service to the ministry of the Church. On a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by Fred Marin, the Pastor’s report was accepted.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Lisha Klaiber presented the Church’s projected net loss of almost $13,675 coming in as a loss of about $5,253.55, which was later corrected by David Almond to read a net **gain** of $5,253.55. She reported the Church’s Estimates of Giving up from last year, fuel cost for the church at a fixed rate and the Church funds now contained in three separate accounts: General Fund, Building Fund, and Vanguard Financial Funds previously LPL Financial. She reported transferring $60.50 from the Choir Fund to the Scholarship Fund dedicated to Ed Boadway from the congregation, hoping to transfer these donations to the Vermont Organist Guild, a scholarship fund for new and aspiring organists.

She reported the Church will be facing a deficit for the coming year of $6,755. Expenditures focused on roof repairs, a new copier for the office and the purchase of new chair lift at a cost of $16,000 from the Building Fund. Fred Marin met with the Fire Marshall to effect the installation of the new chair and addressed several problems including the consideration of a sprinkler system for the Sanctuary. At an approximate cost of $100,000, this issue has to be investigated as to its actual need.

Lisha then proceeded to go through the budget, pointing increases or decreases as noted. She did indicate money in the Discretionary Fund was paid to Ed Boadway during his illness at the direction of Pastor or the President of the Board. David raised a question regarding the Vanguard Funds, looking for market value rather than interest income. He volunteered to help oversee these funds to give us a better understanding of our financial picture. On a motion from George Thomson and second by Linda Thomson, the Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

**United Church Women Report:**

With no leadership from the United Church Women, a treasurer’s report was submitted: 2015 Balance $2,888.01 and a 2016 Balance of $1,833.5. On a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by Jean Eggleston, this report was accepted

**Outreach/Missions Committee Report:**

Brenda Dansingburg presented Outreach disbursements for 2016: $1,750 to Malayaka House; $1,750 to Black River Good Neighbors, and $500 to Ed Boadway Scholarship Fund. On a motion ftom Lisha Klaiber and second by David Almond, this report was accepted.

**Altar Guild Report:**

Jean Eggleston presented this report with thanks to Laura Caravatt for her wonderful floral arrangements, Anne Oakes, Andy Ohotnicky & Sandy Peplau for their fall arrangement for Harvest Sunday and Linda Thomson who shops for Christmas and Easter flowers for the Church. On a motion from Lisha Klaiber and second by David Almond, this report was accepted.

**Deacon’s Report:**

In Sandy Peplau’s absence, Bob Kottkamp presented this report. One correction was noted…Betty Merrill has moved to New Mexico. On a motion by Linda Thomson and second by Lisha Klaiber, this report was accepted.

**Audit Committee Report:**

Jean Eggleston presented this report defining scope, purpose, method, and findings for the audit of the Church. Their conclusion found the Church’s finances, supporting documentation and traceability to be in **sound** condition. She and Lee Potter gave special thanks to Lisha Klaiber as Treasurer for her dedication needed to successfully perform the duties of Treasurer. On a motion from George Thomson and second by Andy Ohotnicky, this report was accepted.

**ByLaw Changes**:

Bob Kottkamp presented changes to the Church’s ByLaws, establishing the creation of a new office, that of Vice President to be elected by the Executive Board at its first meeting following the Annual meeting and the calling of an Ordained Minister or a Licensed Minister. Discussion followed on the Search Committee makeup when it becomes necessary to search for a new Minister. Composition of this committee shall be seven members: two (2) Deacons; two (2) Executive Board members and three (3) representatives of the membership at large. The question arose as to the definition of an Ordained Minister as presented by the United Church of Christ or the United Methodist Church. Pastor Harpster stated the United Church of Christ defined a Licensed minister as having lay training, has a reality of ministry in Vermont, able to perform the sacramental rites of marriage, communion, baptism. Lisha Klaiber moved to accept the proposed changes of the ByLaws with regard to the establishment of a Vice President and the Calling the Minister with the noted amendments. David Almond second and the motion passed.

**President’s Perspective:**

In a separate missive from the Annual Report, Bob Kottkamp outlined his ten years serving as President of the Executive Board. With an eye to history and a belief that a broad perspective is useful, he outlined major trends and events in his tenure. He recognized all who have served as officers, board and committee members and teachers. His final words centered on the growing manifestations of true Christian spirit evident within our congregation; his desire to see the United Church participate in the broader Christian life of the Windham-Union Association and the Vermont Conference of the UCC and the continued struggle to increase our congregation.

**2016 Slate of Officers:**

Bob Kottkamp presented the Slate to the congregation noting the vacancy of the office of the President and vacancies for Trustee and Deacons. He called for nominations from the floor. Receiving none he received for a motion to accept the presented slate from Lisha Klaiber with a second from Fred Marin. Discussion followed with Pastor Don Harpster indicating he would not be able to function without presidential leadership. He would not be able to devote more time as pastor and operating without a president would be a major problem. At this point, George Thomson stepped forward with his offer to serve as President of the Executive Board. Bob called for a vote and the motion to accept the Slate of Officers with George Thomson as President was passed.

The motion to adjourn was made by Lisha Klaiber at 1:47 p.m. and second by all present.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Liao, Clerk