**Minutes – United Church of Ludlow**

**Annual Meeting**

**November 12, 2017**

**Attendees:**

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

**Minutes:**

George Thomson, President of the Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m. and offered a prayer. The minutes of the prior Annual Meeting on November 12, 2016 were read and on a motion by Lisha Klaiber and second by Lee Potter, the minutes were accepted.

**President’s Report:**

George presented his President’s message and on a motion from Lisha and second by Lee, the President’s Report was accepted.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Lisha Klaiber, treasurer, opened her remarks announcing a projected loss of $12,295 and coming in with a gain of $7,800; with Estimates of Giving up in the past year and Vanguard posting a net gain of $11,700. Budgeting a net gain was due in part, to the loss of the pastor’s package being disbursed. She then proceeded to outline the attached budget line by line, explaining the elimination of line item “Heifer Fund” and defining the Discretionary Fund. Bob Kottkamp reminded the congregation that there are presently 49 pastor positions being sought by the United Congregation Conference to be filled in Vermont. While the 2017pastor’s package budget was $34,120 and the 2018 proposed budget is only $17,700, when a new pastor is secured for the United Church, we will have to exceed the 2018 proposed amount. Dean Alexander asked what the financial position the Church was at this point. Lisha replied about $300,000; with about $62,000 in operating fund, $122,000 in the building fund and $111,000 in Vanguard. On a motion from Fred Marin and a second by Marge Macintyre, the treasurer’s report was accepted.

**United Church Women’s Report:**

A treasurer’s report was presented in this report with a balance of $1,443.91 as of September 30, 2017 and was accepted on a motion from Lisha and second by Lee.

**Outreach Report**

Brenda Dansingburg presented this report prepared by David Hearne and explained to Marge Macintyre’s question on how Kiva operates. Kiva lends money to international small business enterprises just starting out, typically by women. This money is paid back and put back into a fund to be available for other enterprises. On a motion from Lisha and second by Lee, this report was accepted.

**Alter Guild Report:**

Brenda Dansingburg presented this report and on a motion from Lisha and second by Lee, this report was accepted.

**Deacon’s Report:**

Sandy Peplau presented this report with thanks to the members of the deaconate committee. Lee Kafer had two issues he wished addressed. First, the selection of new music for worship service. Sandy replied the ministers generally select music, often to align with that Sunday’s message, but she will look into music from the Methodist hymnal and asked Lee to, perhaps, prepare a list of music he would consider. Marge Macintyre might have an opportunity to secure new hymnals for the United Church. Lisha raised the concern about securing copies of new hymns for use by the organist and congregation.

Dean Alexander suggested discretion be given to the organist and the congregation be invited to make contributions. George asked for volunteers for a Music Committee. Dean help will work on this. Lee’s second concern involved announcements after the prelude has been played and service has started. His recommendation involved business announcements be made before the prelude and before the start of worship service. Deacons will take this under advisement. On a motion from Lee Kafer and second from Lisha, this report was accepted.

**Audit Committee’s Report:**

Lee Potter thanked Lisha Klaiber for her excellent preparation of the budget and fiscal documents, making audit preparation easy work. He then proceeded to describe how the audit is prepared. On a motion from Bob Kottkamp and second from Lee Kafer, this report was accepted.

**2018 Slate of Officers:**

George presented the 2018 Slate of Officers with the following new additions: Dean Alexander as Trustee, Marjorie Macintyre as Deacon and Bill Kneebone on Outreach. On a motion from Lee Kafer and second from Lee Potter, the 2018 Slate of Officers was accepted.

George closed the meeting with the following remarks:

* He thanked Richard Stewart and Wayne Hammond who perform plowing and lawn maintenance for the Church.
* He provided an update on progress in securing a new minister. There was a six month delay in starting this process because of Johanna Harpster. He has arranged a six month supply of pulpit ministers. While the UC Conference did not offer much help, he will work with Bruce Bishop to help us through a new selection process. This will involve total congregation participation to define what our needs are in a series of 7 meetings/input to be done either through dinner meetings, on-line write-in input or maybe a series of questions in the bulletin. It was hoped this will start in a few weeks. Sandy suggested the 12/10 Deacon’s Luncheon could serve as a first meeting.

Lee Kafer asked if a search could be made outside the United Church. George said it could happen if we work with the United Church or Methodist Conference. Brenda Dansingburg asked if we are looking for a ¼ time minister. George replied we are looking to replace what we had.

Dean Alexander had a question regarding the Discretionary Fund, who felt it might be more readily used if more people knew about it, and perhaps soliciting for funds would make this more available to people in need.

A motion to adjourn was by Lisha Klaiber at 1:02 p.m. and second by Lee Potter

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Liao, Clerk