

**United Church of Ludlow  
Annual Meeting 2024  
Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 1230 PM**

**United Church of Ludlow, 48 Pleasant St, Ludlow, VT 05149**

**Attendees In-Person and on Zoom:** A quorum of members was present, in person and on Zoom, as well as all members of the Executive Council, and Pastor Michelle Fountain.

- I. **Call Meeting to Order** – Pastor Michelle Fountain started the meeting at 11:55 AM by leading us in prayer. Lisha Klaiber, Treasurer, then led the meeting. Laura Creaser counted the members present, and reported to Lisha that we had a quorum.
- II. **Approval of Minutes** – Dean Alexander made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting. Jim Peplau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Pastor’s Report** – Pastor Michelle presented the Pastor’s Report.
- IV. **Mission and Vision Proposal and Vote** – Lisha presented the proposed Mission Statement. Jim Peplau made a motion to accept it. Stacy Malecki seconded. During Discussion, Marge Macintyre suggested adding “our community, nation, and world.” Jim and Stacy accepted the friendly amendment. Jim Peplau made an amended motion, seconded by Nancy. Motion passed to adopt the Mission Statement as follows:

**Striving to live God’s message of inclusive love through Jesus Christ in our community, nation, and world.**
- V. **Vision Statement** – Lisha presented the proposed Vision Statement. Linda Thomson made a motion to accept. Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt seconded. During discussion, Marge Macintyre again made a friendly amendment asking for the addition of “community, nation, and world.” Linda and Lisa accepted the recommendation. The motion passed to adopt the amended Vision Statement Motion as follows:

**As we strive to live God’s message of love, we:**  
**welcome everyone,**  
**celebrate diversity,**  
**nurture spiritual growth,**  
**work toward peace and justice,**  
**serve our community, nation, and world.**
- VI. **Fiscal Year 2023 Report – Treasurer.** Lisha Klaiber presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Report. It was noted that People’s Bank is now known as M&T Bank.
- VII. **Auditor’s Report** – Dean Alexander presented the Auditor’s Report and confirmed that Lisha Klaiber’s financial documents are accurate and in good condition. He took the

opportunity to thank Lisha for 17 years providing these services to the United Church of Ludlow.

- VIII. **Proposed Budget for Fiscal 2024** – Lisha Klaiber presented the Proposed Budget for 2024, which showed a net budgeted income loss of \$1965. Marge Macintyre made a motion to accept, Laura Creaser seconded. The Budget for Fiscal 2024 was approved.
- IX. **Outreach Committee** – Linda Thomson submitted the Outreach Committee report.
- X. **Deaconate Report** – Laura Creaser submitted the Deaconate Report. She noted that with the departure of Lisha Klaiber, there is an opening on the committee.
- XI. **2024 Slate of Officers** – The 2024 Slate of Officers was presented, as follows:

<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
<b>President</b>	None	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Bob Malecki	2024
<b>Clerk</b>	Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt	2024
<b>Receiver of Offerings</b>	Anne Oakes	2024
<b>Trustees</b>	Dean Alexander	2026
	Laura Creaser	2024
	Bret Harlow	2026
	Andy Ohotnicky	2025
<b>Deacons</b>	Laura Creaser (Chair)	2024
	Marge Macintyre	2024
	Nancy Martel	2027
	Sandy Peplau	2027
	Linda Thomson	2027
<b>Auditor(s)</b>	Dean Alexander	2024
<b>Mission Outreach Committee</b>	Bill Kneebone	2025
	Sandy Peplau	2025
	Linda Thompson	2025

Laura Creaser made motion to approve the 2024 Slate of Officers. Marge Macintyre seconded. The Slate of Officers was approved for 2024. Michelle Fountain thanked Lisha Klaiber for her 17 years of service and presented her with a spa gift card from the congregation. Lisha stepped aside and Dean Alexander stepped up to continue running the Annual Meeting.

- XII. **New Business** – Dean Alexander, on behalf of the Trustees, presented several capital needs to the congregation for consideration:

- a. The bell in the church bell tower has not been working for two years. Church Specialties Corp., has submitted a proposal to repair the wood yoke and wheel on the church bell for \$25,000.
  - b. There is a need for a façade around the foundation of the handicapped rear entrance. The church has \$12,500 in funding, but has not found a mason able to do the project.
  - c. The church's antiquated PA and music system needs an upgrade. Trustees have received a proposal from AV Innovations to redo everything, with professional installation, at cost of \$7,200. Trustees would like to authorize proceeding with repair of bell and AV system purchase, at a cost of \$32-33,000. There are enough funds in the church building fund to cover this; however, the Trustees are also reaching out to the congregation and community to augment those, and to include the foundation. Dean noted that the church has received a matching funds grant of \$12,500.
- 1- Dean Alexander made a motion to enter into a contract with Church Specialties Corp. to service Contract Proposal #2293, at cost of \$25,000, to repair the bell tower. Laura Creaser seconded. There was discussion. Motion passed.
  - 2- Dean Alexander made a motion to contract with AV Innovations to replace our audio system, under Contract Proposal #1194, at a cost of \$7,218.50. The project will include a new amplifier, wireless microphones, new speakers, a Bluetooth music receiver, and more, including installation. Christine Boardman seconded. There was discussion. Dean clarified in response to a question from George Thomson that the project does not yet include earphones, because the system needs to be installed before those can be purchased, to ensure compatibility. He assured the congregation that earphones are not expensive and will be added later. Christine Boardman urged that we make sure the system works well before paying the final bill. Nancy Martel said to check on warranty and future repairs arrangements. Dean said he has had good experience with the vendor and is confident of good service, but will take these recommendations under advisement. Motion passed.
  - 3- Discussion of façade, materials, etc. No motion was needed on this since it was approved by the congregation five years ago. Dean discussed the difficulty finding a mason to do the work. A congregant promised to make a referral.
  - 4- Dean Alexander made a motion to initiate a \$50,000 capital funds drive to church members and the community in order to raise funds to offset the costs of approved projects. This total would include the \$12,500 matching funds, so the actual amount being solicited by the drive is \$37,500. Jane McGarry seconded. There was discussion. Bob Malecki offered a friendly amendment to the motion to designate that 10 percent of the \$50,000 to be used for church mission; Dean and Jane agreed. The amended motion passed.
  - 5- Dean thanked Bob Malecki for stepping forward as new treasurer, and let him know that he is ex-officio member of all committees, though attendance is not mandatory.

- XIII. **Other Business** -- Linda Thomson asked the church Executive Board to look into a problem with the light that shines outside on stained glass window. This was referred to the Trustees. Jim Peplau said Ludlow Electric has offered assistance for maintenance on that light.
- XIV. **Adjournment** – Linda Thomson made a motion to adjourn. Dean Alexander seconded, and closed the meeting at 1148 AM.

*Minutes submitted by*

*Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt,*

*Clerk to the Board*