

# Lowville United Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

*Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 11:30 pm @ Lowville United Church*

**Chair:** Dave Jolly

**Secretary:** Heather Davis

In Attendance:

Carol Haley, Linda Jolly, Gerry Howe, Donna Millar, Shirley Mayeski, Beverly Balch, Lorraine Bridgman, Sonny Bridgman, Patrick Gallagher, Linda Ross Gallagher, Rev. Louise Hart, Linda Smith, Dale Andrew, Muriel Howe, Gil Amardeil, Shirley Williams, Don Woods, Jane Woods, Rosemary Jackson, Allan Salmi, Connie Salmi, Doug Christilaw, Linda Thomas, don Thomas, Karen McLean, Perry McLean, Dave Jolly, Leanne Roberts, Scott Howe, Heather Davis

## Gathering in God's Name

1. **Lighting of the Christ Candle** – “God is here, God is with you... and also with you.”

2. **Motion to approve Dave Jolly as the Chairperson for the Congregation meeting.**

**Motion to approve made by:** Karen McLean **Seconded by:** Connie Salmi **Carried**

3. Motion to approve Heather Davis as secretary for the Congregation meeting.

**Motion to approve made by:** Linda Jolly **Seconded by:** Dale Smith **Carried**

4. Motion to extend voting privileges to all adherents.

**Motion made by:** Gerry Howe **Seconded by:** Lorraine Bridgman **Carried**

5. **Approval of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Lowville United Church Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes** – No Changes were brought forth.

**Motion to approve made by:** Connie Salmi **Seconded by:** Muriel Howe **Carried**

## Annual Report

All past annual reports are on the LUC website, going back to 2020. Once the current report has been finalized the word draft will be removed from the copy on the website.

Changes to printed Annual report include the following:

Communion updated with names. Added section regarding communion services.

Under UCW, Carol Haley replaced Shirley. Dave highlighted the great work and support the UCW provides for shut ins.

Dave thanked Scott, Muriel, and Lou-Ann for their work in utilizing Canada Helps and adding a donation button to the web site. This allows ease of donations especially for those who don't use cheques.

Dave Thanked Gerry and the volunteers for the work done on the property.

Dave thanked the Board of trustees in managing the rental of the manse and the yearly increases. He thanked Gerry and Gil for managing repairs last year. It was a busy year with septic issues and other issues.

Rosemary pointed out that under pastoral care the report mentioned help was needed for card ministry. However, she informed the congregation that this was covered by Carol Haley. Rosemary reminded the everyone to inform Carol if someone was experiencing issues and a receiving a card would be beneficial.

### Motion to accept the Lowville United Church 2024 Annual Report

**Made by:** Gerry Howe **Seconded:** Scott Howe **Carried**

### Slate of council members

- Office admin Lou-Ann
- Council Chair – Dave Jolly
- Council Secretary – Heather Davis
- Vice Chair – Vacant
- Board of Trustees – Allan Salmi
- Regional Representative – volunteer needed
- Mission and Outreach – volunteer needed
- Ministry & Personnel – Perry McLean
- Visibility – volunteer needed
- Worship – needed
- Christian Development Chair – Karen
- Pastoral Care –
- Finance – Scott Howe,
- Treasurer - Muriel Howe
- Stewardship – volunteer needed.
- Ways & Means – volunteer needed to organise fund raisers.
- Property – Gerry Howe
- Administration – Allan Salmi
- UCW – Beverley Balch
- Cemetery Board – Mike Wilson, Susan Wilson

### Motion to accept the Lowville United Church 2025 Slate of Council Members

**Made by:** Linda Smith **Seconded:** Beverley Balch **Carried**

Linda described to the congregation how Lou-Ann assisted the family who rented the church for a birthday party. Lou-Ann patiently listened to their needs and rearranged the set up. The

renters were extremely happy. This is just one example of how Lou-Ann is amazing with people and very organized.

## **New Business**

### 1. Financial Budget

Presented by Scott Howe.

He explained the budget is presented slightly different due to the way the accountant and church operate.

Other income includes a bequest and donation from Albarrie, Capital income shows funds received specifically for capital expenditures. Scott will submit the tax rebate this year. It is time consuming therefore completed every other year.

Interest income includes bank account earnings as well as the GICs income that was received this year.

Income from Fund raisers are beneficial and can only occur when there is enough volunteers.

Church rental income is difficult to predict.

The Manse rental is a known amount.

#### Expenses

Congregation can speak to chair members if they wish to know their planned expenditures.

Property expenses vary year to year.

There was an unplanned surplus in 2024 due to the bequest received.

Operating account has approximately \$37,000. If additional funds are needed for operating expenses, then money from the GICs will be allocated. Every 6 months a GIC is due. Council can assess the need for additional operating funds before reinvesting.

Capital reserve is for unexpected expenditures where the operating expense is for hydro, taxes, etc.

The roof on the manse is looking questionable. The cost to fix the heating issues in the manse was fortunately low.

The Cemetery is a separate entity from Lowville United Church with separate finances. If you want to donate to the cemetery then contact Mike Wilson directly. Lou-Ann has the contact information.

The cemetery contact name and number will be put on the LUC website.

What is included in worship budget: anniversary service, gifts, plants, cards stamps, flowers,

Pulpit supply is under M&P.

Muriel thanked Lorraine Bridgman for managing the bank deposits and providing information to the accountant. Big thank you to her dedication for everything she does for the church.

Muriel also acknowledged all the individuals that support the church financially even though they can't attend due to distance or health etc. Since 2018, LUC has delivered plants and cards to 17 such individuals.

Motion to accept the budget as provided by Scott Howe

**Made by:** Linda Jolly **Seconded:** Karen McLean **Carried**

## 2. Mission & Service

The goal for the Mission & Service amount for 2024 was \$3,000. This goal was met and exceeded by \$7. \$2,532 came from PAR and \$475 came from plate givings.

Motion made to set Lowville's Mission and Service 2025 goal at \$3,000.

**Made by:** Rosemary Jackson      **Seconded:** Allan Salmi      **Carried**

Copy of the Commitment to the Violence and Harassment in the workplace policy can be found in the office.

Motion to Renew our Commitment to the Violence and Harassment in the Workplace Policy

**Made by:** Dale Smith      **Seconded:** Scott Howe      **Carried**

## 3. M&P

Presented by Perry McLean.

If any confusion who to contact, then reach out to Lou-Ann for assistance.

The Church would not operate without all the volunteers. Thank you for all the work. Special thanks to Dave who manages everything.

Thank you to all the council members.

Congratulations to Louise on her retirement. Thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do in the next 2 months before you leave.

Louise's retirement is an opportunity to reflect, look at challenges and opportunities to move forward.

Council will hold a town hall were the congregation can talk informally about where we are and where we want to go. This will take place Sunday April 13, 2025. No decisions will be made. Council will participate, but also listen to others as we wish to have congregation input. Intension is to hold a couple

town halls this year. If you can not attend reach out a council member to give your views.

### Harvey Miller Fund

When started the goal was to use funds towards outreach. Not church related, but to help better the world.

The last donation was in 2021 and paid \$14,000 towards the Bahamas hurricane relief.

Management of this fund is under the mission and outreach committee. Since there is no committee then management defaults to council. Council would like input of ideas from the congregation. Please email Dave or Lou-Ann. Council will then discuss and give a proposal to the congregation.

Currently \$15,704.71 is in the fund.

Dave acknowledged everyone is a volunteer and thanked them for caring about the church and each other. Dave thanked Louise for her time spent at Lowville so far and for her wonderful services.

Dave thanked Rosemary for coming in and out of her many retirements to help. He thanked Linda for taking over the music. Major 7 band's contribution as well. He thanked Karen and volunteers for running the pancake supper. Dave thanked Bev Balch for her efforts to do the Wesley case for kids.

Dave noted that meeting and exceeding our mission outreach goal is a great achievement, and the congregation should be proud of that accomplishment.

Dave thanked council members for their passion, and dedication to the church.

Dave thanked Lou-Ann for organizing all of the needs of the rental groups. Commented on the great work she does to ensure sure things are done to their satisfaction. Next rental is the elections.

**Next Meeting**

- **Lowville United Church Annual Congregation Meeting 2026**

**Closing Prayer by Louise Hart.** Louise thanked Dave for everything he does for the church each day.

**Going Forth to Serve**

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Sonny Bridgman Seconded by Scott Howe.

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Chair Signature

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Secretary Signature