

North Universalist Chapel Society

2025 Annual Report

Annual Meeting
January 25, 2026
11:30 am



7 Church Street
Woodstock, Vermont 05091
802-457-2557
office@northchapelvt.org
www.northchapelvt.org

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

2025 Annual Report

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Agenda

1. Moderator, Kevin Geiger, opens the meeting
2. Welcome – For the Board of Trustees, Kathy Astemborski and Rev. Leon Dunkley
3. Election of 2026 Moderator – Nominating Committee nominates Kevin Geiger
4. Election of 2026 Clerk – Nominating Committee nominates Amy McElroy
5. Election of Treasurer – Nominating Committee nominates David Cook
6. Election of Board Members – Nominating Committee
7. Appointment of Nominating Committee Member - The Board appoints Deb Rice.
8. Presentation of Annual Report – Board and Committee representatives followed by questions, comments and motion to accept the report
9. Presentation and Action on 2026 Budget
 - a. 2025 Stewardship Drive report - Ann Wynia
 - b. Finance and Trustees of Funds Committee Report – Ann Wynia
 - c. Discussion of the 2026 budget and vote to approve the 2026 budget – Ann Wynia
10. Unsung Hero – presented by Kathy and Jayne on behalf of the Board of Trustees
11. In Memorial – Judy Williamson
12. Closing – Rev. Leon Dunkley

Adjournment

The North Universalist Chapel, Woodstock, VT
Annual Meeting - January 25, 2026
North Chapel Board of Trustees Report on 2025

This annual report from the Board of Trustees, delivered at the Annual Meeting, is an opportunity for the Board to reflect back on the happenings at North Chapel over the past year - 2025. As we started 2025, the board was very focused on building community. Welcoming new faces to our community is always a goal and offering our space for various events and activities is a great way to do that.

There is always a full schedule of meetings and gatherings at North Chapel and our wonderful Joanne Boyle helped me remember some of them!. This past year we hosted musical concerts, blood drives, Window Dressers, the Hash Dash, Drag Story Hour, Cabin Fever dinners, the Annual Bird Count Dinner, the Gaza event - to name a few. The North Chapel hosts ongoing events such as music lessons, a Men's Group, meditation, and Oneness gatherings. This past year brought an increase in people renting space at North Chapel while we saw a reduction in fund-raising opportunities - most notably the auction. One of the issues noted at last years meeting is that fund-raising events cannot be successful without an increase in people power. Over the past several years, the Auction had been one of the biggest fund-raising events. We knew this past year we couldn't make it happen. It is a huge lift, a lot of work, and some of the original people involved have moved out of the area. The Hash Dash continues to be successful, largely due to the orchestration and hard work of Ann Wynia, The Wreath Sale and Bulb Sale have brought funds in due to Mary Blanton's hard work. The Soup Sale on the Green was orchestrated by Kate Johnson, and did bring funds in, but the days it operated was cut short due to lack of volunteers.

In November the North Chapel became the home of the Woodstock Afterschool Program, a new program initiated by Nathan Hull. The Board had approved the program and Nathan worked hard to secure the licensing and approvals needed to begin. He is currently requesting that the program be allowed to operate additional hours during school vacations and possibly summer vacation - the Board will be considering this at our January meeting. It's been wonderful to have the presence of little ones on a regular basis, and also be introducing community members to the North Chapel in this manner.

At the end of June we faced the end of an era with Diane Mellinger leaving her position as Music Director at North Chapel after serving in that position for 28

years. We were so sad to see her go and have been so fortunate in having Michael Zsoldos step up to direct the choir. We've also been fortunate to have John Atwood accompanying the choir and providing exquisite pieces on the organ.

The Board spent many hours this past year creating a Strategic Plan that will be presented at the Annual Meeting. We did this with the assistance of Delia Clark, to whom we are so grateful. She spent many hours with us, her excellent facilitation and strategic planning skills were an essential part of us being able to develop a plan. The board held 2 retreats to focus on strategic planning. On 7/25/25 we had a service entitled "A Creamee For Your Thoughts" which served to include our community in identifying goals for North Chapel. We created a sticky note collage with the thoughts and ideas of community members. And all that hard work was rewarded with a creamee! The input was incorporated into the plan the Board had been working on. The strategic plan identifies goals and priorities to keep North Chapel moving forward.

We appreciate Leon's reflections over this past, often difficult, year as they have been insightful, inspiring, and bring us hope. His leadership, creativity, and talent are recognized by the wider community and have brought joy and comfort to those who interact with him. Thank you, Leon.

As we look forward to 2026 I wanted to share a segment from a post Dana Hale (North Chapel Board of Trustees) recently made to the Woodstock list-serve:

Did you know that every Sunday, from 10-11, a wide array of residents come together at the North Chapel to listen to each other's 'joys and concerns?' Many people do not get up to speak. In three years, I believe I have spoken twice. But others have something they want to share and it has been a great privilege to listen to them. In witnessing our common humanity, my heart has softened to the plight of others. Rather than feeling that our community is devolving or becoming less personal, I feel heartened, with hope and optimism for our future.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Come find out how much there is to love about your neighbor, Sunday at 10am at the North Chapel. See you there.

On to 2026!

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Annual Meeting, January 26, 2025, Woodstock, VT

1. Moderator, Kevin Geiger, opened the meeting at 11:45. Kevin explained that for this meeting, seconding of motions for nominations is not required.
2. Welcome – On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Co-chairs Kathy Astemborski and Mary Blanton welcomed all to the Annual Meeting.
3. Election of 2025 Moderator – The Nominating Committee nominated Kevin Geiger as moderator of the meeting. Sherry Belisle made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
4. Election of 2025 Clerk – The Nominating Committee nominated Amy McElroy as clerk of the meeting. Sherry Belisle made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
5. Election of Treasurer – The Nominating Committee nominated Ann Wynia as Treasurer. Sherry Belisle made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
6. Election of Board of Trustees Members – The Nominating Committee nominated Jayne Hufferdine for a three-year term and nominated Kate Johnson to complete the last two years of a three-year term to the Board of Trustees. Sherry Belisle made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval. Thanks were expressed to Jack Nelson for his two years of service on the Board.
7. Election of Finance Committee Nominees - The Nominating Committee nominated David Frieman to the Finance Committee. Sherry Belisle made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
8. Election of Nominating Committee Nominees – The Board of Trustees nominated Judy Williamson to the Nominating Committee. Mary Blanton made the motion. Motion passed with unanimous approval.
9. Presentation of 2024 Annual Report – The 2024 Annual Report was made available to all on the Church website. It includes the agenda for today's meeting, Letter from the Board, Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting, Minister's Report, 2024 financial reports, 2025 proposed budget, and various committee reports.

Neil Marinello made a motion to accept the 2024 Annual Report. Ralph Lancaster seconded the motion. The moderator opened up the meeting for comments, questions on the 2024 Annual Report. There were none. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

10. Presentation and Action on 2025 Budget
 - a. 2025 Stewardship Drive report - Mary Blanton reported. The goal for 2025 is \$110,000. As of printing the 2024 Financial Report, there are 70 pledges for \$109,731.
 - b. Discussion of North Chapel's 2025 budget and vote to approve the 2025 budget -

Ann Wynia reported on key points for the 2025 budget. Ann encouraged somebody to step up and work with her this year to take over as treasurer. She has agreed to serve as treasurer for one more

year. She has served for 34 years. Generous gifts were received for the endowment fund. A gift from Peggy Kannenstine was received for building projects and music.

The cost for music director is unknown since Diane Mellinger is leaving after June, and a replacement has not yet been found.

Anne Marinello asked what the pastoral care cost of \$4000 was for. This was for Gwen Groff who filled in while Leon was on sabbatical.

Anne Dean has donated her solar panel in northern Vermont to North Chapel, which will reduce the church's electricity costs.

Fran Lancaster asked what WEMC stands for. Welcoming, Engagement, and Membership Committee.

Neil Marinello made a motion to accept the 2025 North Chapel Budget. Ralph Lancaster seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

11. The Unsung Hero award was presented by Kathy and Mary on behalf of the Board of Trustees. There are two unsung heroes for 2024 - Anne Marinello and Tambrey Vutech.

Under Anne's leadership Pastoral Care was brought to a higher level. Anne is also on the Worship Committee and has served as service coordinator. She helped overhaul the Spiritual Exploration space, cleaning out old stuff and purchasing new stuff.

Tambrey stepped in to help frequently with food, cleanup, soup sales on the green, and helping anybody in need. She also sings in the choir.

Meeting members expressed appreciation for these two unsung heroes.

12. In Memorial – Anne Marinello read the names of people from North Chapel who died in 2024.

13. Closing – Rev. Dr. Leon Dunkley

Floods in July – water came to within 20 feet of the back door. Leon spoke of our beloved Vassie and Chris Lloyd, who will be sorely missed. Vassie's memorial service will be in the spring. He mentioned with appreciation the gifts that we receive from our congregation and the preciousness that lets us see a beautiful way forward.

Joanne Boyle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laurie Marshall seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy McElroy, Clerk of Annual Meeting

Mission Statement: To manage the funds of this Society which are not otherwise taken care of by the term of trust or other conveyance for the benefit of the Society.

By laws state that it assists the Board of Trustees and other committees to forecast, plan and execute the fiduciary operations of the North Chapel.

Membership should consist of 6 members of the North Chapel plus the treasurer. Laird Bradley, Jack Nelson and David Friedman are current members. Practice has been to meet every 3 months.

As outlined in Financial Position document current assets include:

- M&T checking account - 57826.98

- Mascoma Social Justice CD - 15677.42

- Mascoma Kannenstine CD - 45000

- Mascoma Money Market - Temporarily restricted - 12799.57

The Finance Committee needs 3 more members to meet bylaw requirements.

Statement of Financial Position

North Universalist Chapel Society

As of December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking (2721)	57,826.98
Mascoma CD -5 month - Social Justice	15,677.42
Mascoma CD - 5mth-PK B&G	45,000.00
Mascoma Checking - Temp. Restricted Funds	\$427.79
Carbon Neutral	3,517.08
Classical Concert	1,000.00
Ministers Fund & Jantos	2,582.91
Permaculture Garden	755.83
PK B&G	343.01
Social Justice	4,162.95
Total for Mascoma Checking - Temp. Restricted Funds	\$12,789.57
Reserve Fund	
VCF- VT Community Foundation	300,491.53
Wells Fargo Reserve	0.00
Total for Reserve Fund	\$300,491.53
Restricted Reserve Fund	
VCF - North Chapel Endowment	397,110.53
Total for Restricted Reserve Fund	\$397,110.53
Total for Bank Accounts	\$828,896.03
Accounts Receivable	
1200 Pledges Receivable	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
Other Current Assets	
12000 Undeposited Funds	0.00
Prepaid Expenses	1,735.00
Prepaid Pledges	-25,688.55
QuickBooks Tax Holding Account	2,933.56
Total for Other Current Assets	-\$21,019.99
Total for Current Assets	\$807,876.04
Other Assets	
VT Community Loan Fund (deleted)	0.00
Total for Assets	\$807,876.04

Statement of Financial Position

North Universalist Chapel Society

As of December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
M&T Credit card	21.19
Sears Credit Card	0.00
Total for Credit Cards	\$21.19
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 Payroll Liabilities	\$1,137.39
24100 Federal Taxes (941/944)	2,412.41
24200 VT Income Tax	521.15
Pension (401K) Contributions	779.75
UUA	0.00
Total for 24000 Payroll Liabilities	\$4,850.70
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00
Out Of Scope Agency Payable	0.00
Vermont Department of Taxes Payable	0.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$4,850.70
Total for Current Liabilities	\$4,871.89
Total for Liabilities	\$4,871.89
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Investment Gains/Losses	249,187.84
32000 Unrestricted Fund Balance	562,271.67
Net Income	-8,455.36
Total for Equity	\$803,004.15
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$807,876.04

	North Universalist Chapel Society			
	2025 Financial Report & 2026 Proposal			
	Ann Wynia, Treasurer			
Income	2025	2025		2026
	Budget	Actual		Proposal
Pledges	110000	108800		95000
Fundraisers	35000	21400		25000
Loose	15000	15740		16000
Rentals	11000	11880		13000
5% Reserve	10000	11555		14850
5% Endowment	12000	13015		19600
Gifts	2000	7021		8000
Dividends	600	1380		600
Total income	195600	190791		192050
Expenses				
Church				
Electric	3500	3200		3000
Fuel	9000	8300		9000
Grounds	4500	4045		4500
Insurance	10730	11225		12720
Janitorial	2000	1950		2000

Maintenace	5000	6270		3000
Water/Sewer	1000	945		1000
	35730	35935		35220
Parsonage				
Furnace	0	554		1000
Maintenance	2000	620		1000
	2000	1174		2000
Admin				
Office Admin	22100	22100		22100
FICA	1690	1690		1690
Supplies	500	1060		500
Postage	300	275		300
Telephone	2200	2255		2200
Copier	1200	1700		1700
UUA Dues	5400	5310		0
Subscriptions	1500	1975		2000
Merchant fees	700	140		200
QB	870	1060		1025
Bookkeeping	6100	5250		6000
Worker Comp	1875	1850		1850
	44435	42815		37715
Minister				

Salary	25175	25177	25177
Housing	44400	44400	44400
In lieu FICA	5323	5323	5323
Med Ins	13185	16975	15830
Prof Expenses	6958	6958	6958
Term Life	565	565	565
LTD	870	870	870
Pension	6958	6958	6958
Dental	780	780	780
	104214	108006	106861
Worship			
Substitutes	1200	850	1200
Supplies	200	268	300
Advertize	200	0	0
	1600	1118	1500
Music			
Director/Organist	16830	14015	17600
FICA	1325	1070	1350
Special Music	1000	500	600
Supplies	400	110	400

		19555	15695		19950
	WEM				
	Outreach	300	90		250
	Recognition	300	550		500
	Coffee	200	0		0
		800	640		750
	SE	7800	7800		7800
	FICA	596	595		596
	Continuing Educ	500	0		500
	Child Care	200	0		200
	Supplies	300	0		300
		9396	8395		9396
	Total Expenses	217730	213778		213392
		-22130	-22987		-21342

NORTH CHAPEL

ROBUST ORGANIZATION

STRONG ORGANIZATION/RELEVANT COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE

DYNAMIC YOUTH

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION/PROGRAMS AND EVENTS/REAL WORLD WORK

SUPPORTED JOURNEYS

EXPLORE POWERFUL QUESTIONS/LEANING INTO MUSIC + JUSTICE WORK

VIBRANT ENGAGEMENT

SPIRITED VOICES/DIVERSE COLLABORATIONS/OPEN DIALOGUE

STRONG COMMUNITY

RITUALS AND CELEBRATIONS/VOLUNTERRISM/STEWARDS OF HISTORY

North Chapel Strategic Plan - 2030

Working Draft

Mission

The North Chapel is an open and welcoming congregation. It is a community of trust, courage and whole heartedness. Guided by Unitarian Universalist principles, the North Chapel aspires to nurture the growth and support the needs of its members, to sustain a strong spiritual life within a loving community, and seeks to have a positive impact on the world around us.

Principles of Unitarian Universalism

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Vision 2030

In 2030, North Chapel is a thriving center of community life—alive with music, conversation, and connection. We are a welcoming place where people of all ages gather for celebrations, youth programs, partnerships, and social and environmental justice work. Our leadership is collaborative and sustainable, with many members engaged in governance, service, and outreach. Sunday services are inspiring, renewing, and open to all who seek belonging and meaning.

Key Action Areas

Vibrant Congregational Engagement

- Join together to know one another more fully in rituals and celebrations
- Welcome strong volunteerism
- Learn from our youth and from our elders
- Be faithful stewards of our history

Dynamic Youth Opportunities

- Strengthen the Sunday Spiritual Exploration program
- Design opportunities for meaningful service and community volunteerism
- Collaborate with youth to offer programs and fun social events
- Develop real ways of meeting the challenges of our world

Strong Community Connections

- Welcome vital spirited voices into our community
- Cultivate diverse and thriving collaborations
- Personally welcome newcomers into our community
- Be a force for bringing together the polarized perspectives in our society

Supported Spiritual Journeys

- Explore the edge of the most powerful and daring questions that we face
- Create powerful Sunday services that heal and nurture our spirits
- Engage together in active and creative social and environmental justice work
- Lean into our thriving music program as a fulcrum for joy and connection

Robust Organizational Health

- Sustain the financial health of our church
- Build strong governance
- Ensure organizational excellence
- Provide accessible and relevant communication