**United Parish of Lunenburg**

**January 21, 2024**

**Message from the Moderator**

To My Fellow Parishioners,

What a year it has been, filled with significant changes. First and foremost, the sale of the UPL Community Center. While the decision was more unanimous that I anticipated, it was nonetheless a difficult emotional decision considering all that building has meant for us and the community through the decades. On the one hand, I am sad to have let it go, yet on the other hand, I am excited to see the business that moved in be successful in its service to the community.

This sale has provided the church with much needed capital resources which we’ve been able to reinvest in our church building. We constructed a new storage shed, installed a new stove in the kitchen, and installed new heat pumps to supplement heating and provide cooling throughout the building. We’ve invested a significant portion of the proceeds which will yield dividends toward our operational needs as well. I can’t thank Eric Vickery enough for his leadership and efforts throughout the process of vacating the old building and fitting everything into the church building. I’m pleased to see how well the church has adjusted to this move.

Another significant change is the decision to move on in our ministerial leadership rotation and begin the search for a UCC pastor. We’ve had over 10 years of UMC leadership between interims, Pastor Reeves, and now Pastor Farrar and the congregation decided that it was time for a change. We have greatly appreciated our time with the Farrar’s and the significant impact brought to our community. We wish them all the best where they are called to next and approach this transition with great anticipation.

All of this has led to countless hours of volunteer efforts from our membership with even more to come. I’m proud to be a part of an organization that has come together on so many challenges and, through thoughtful discussion and debate, has worked to progress the life and missions of our church.

I look forward to finding our next UCC Pastor and to what the future holds in 2024 and beyond.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Snyder  
UPL Moderator