

UNION BANKSHARES INC

Form DEFA14A

April 07, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities

Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

Union Bankshares, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

1) Amount Previously Paid:

2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

3) Filing Party:

4) Date Filed:

APRIL 7, 2016

Market for Union Bankshares Common Stock

On March 8, 2016, there were 4,458,372 shares of common stock outstanding held by 544 stockholders of record. The number of stockholders does not reflect the number of beneficial owners, including persons or entities who may hold the stock in nominee or "street name." Union Bankshares'

common stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market trading under the symbol UNB. For shareholder assistance please contact Kristy Adams Alfieri at 802.888.0982 or our Transfer Agent, Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, Inc., at 866.321.8022.

We are pleased to report our earnings for the year ended December 31, 2015. Net income for the year was \$7.9 million, or \$1.77 per share, compared to \$7.7 million, or \$1.73 per share for 2014. This represents the fourth year in a row we have been able to report record earnings.

During 2015 total assets grew modestly to \$628.9 million from \$624.1 million at the end of 2014. Total loans increased 3.2% to \$506.7 million as of December 31, 2015, while we finished 2015 with \$560.4 million in deposits. While we tend to shy away from hyperbole, we do think it appropriate to remind our shareholders of their company's relative performance compared to its peers. For banks in New England with assets between \$300 Million and \$1 Billion our three year average Return on Equity (years ended 2015, 2014, and 2013) surpassed all of our peers. We are proud of this accomplishment and thank our staff for their efforts in generating sound financial performance.

The beginning of 2015 brought much snow and with it a strong tourism season. Spring brought us a late but productive Maple Sugar season, followed by a summer with excellent weather and an autumn with one of the most vivid foliage displays in memory.

Old-timers around here might not have predicted the winter of 2015/2016, but they knew too much of a good thing might lead to bad times.

Christmas Eve brought 60 degree temperatures, melting the best efforts of our local, world class snowmakers. Winter was pretty much downhill from there, with cross country ski areas and snowmobile related businesses taking the worst of it. The winter season that began in 2015 will go down as one of the worst snow seasons on record. Early indications are that while businesses have struggled, most will survive, and all of us are looking forward to a speedy end to mud season.

Many observers opine that 2016 will be even more difficult for the banking industry as the Fed waffles on tightening monetary policy and more of Dodd

UNION BANKSHARES
COMMON STOCK

2015			2014		
HIGH	LOW	DIVIDENDS	HIGH	LOW	DIVIDENDS
First Quarter			First Quarter		
\$26.68	\$23.75	\$0.27	\$24.75	\$22.12	\$0.26
Second Quarter			Second Quarter		
\$28.06	\$25.16	\$0.27	\$24.97	\$22.93	\$0.26
Third Quarter			Third Quarter		

\$27.07	\$25.05	\$0.27	\$25.88	\$23.97	\$0.26
Fourth Quarter			Fourth Quarter		
\$28.05	\$26.06	\$0.27	\$24.77	\$23.00	\$0.26

2015 was another year of Frank regulations are working and completing implemented. Despite large projects. Our IT these challenges we team with much remain confident that the assistance replaced all of culture and team we have the bank's desktop built over the years will computers and servers, enable us to continue to some 300 units all told. provide sound returns to We also completed three our shareholders while initiatives related to our maintaining our re-branding project; community banking redesigning all of our mission. brochures, business Sincerely, cards, and letterhead; replacing our branch signage featuring our Kenneth D. David S. new logo; and unveiling Gibbons Silverman our redesigned website. Chairman President & CEO Finally, during 2015 we established our Customer Care Team, where we answer customer phone calls, diagnose their needs, solve most of their concerns, and route their calls to topic experts if necessary, all with a personal touch.

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AT OR FOR THE YEARS ENDED
DECEMBER 31

	2014	2014	2013	2012	
Balance Sheet Data		(Dollars in thousands, except per share data)			FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
Total assets	\$628,879	\$624,063	\$585,443	\$577,256	
Investment securities	59,327	52,964	45,492	26,126	
Loans, net of unearned income	506,656	491,076	465,123	455,298	
Allowance for loan losses	(5,201)	(4,694)	(4,647)	(4,657))
Deposits	560,408	552,064	518,354	509,993	
Borrowed funds	9,564	15,118	13,216	15,747	
Stockholders' equity ¹	53,568	51,434	49,820	45,046	
Income Statement Data					
Total interest and dividend income	\$25,144	\$24,852	\$24,481	\$25,028	
Total interest expense	(2,025)	(2,155)	(2,459)	(3,351))
Net interest and dividend income	23,119	22,697	22,022	21,677	
Provision for loan losses	(550)	(345)	(305)	(660))
Noninterest income	9,792	8,909	8,509	10,525	
Noninterest expenses	(22,304)	(21,594)	(21,229)	(23,035))
Income before provision for income taxes	10,057	9,667	8,997	8,507	
Provision for income taxes	(2,179)	(1,973)	(1,862)	(1,663))
Net income	\$7,878	\$7,694	\$7,135	\$6,844	
Per Common Share Data					
Net income ²	\$1.77	\$1.73	\$1.60	\$1.54	
Cash dividends paid	1.08	1.04	1.01	1.00	
Book value ¹	12.02	11.54	11.17	10.11	
Weighted average number	4,458,037	4,458,393	4,457,261	4,457,029	

of shares
outstanding
Number of shares 4,457,177 4,458,430 4,458,359 4,456,081
outstanding

¹Stockholders' equity includes unrealized gains or losses, net of applicable income taxes, on investment securities classified as "available-for-sale" and includes the unfunded liability for pension benefits, net of taxes for the defined benefit pension plan.

²Computed using the weighted average number of shares outstanding for the period.

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Commercial and Municipal Services

For years, Union Bank has been providing commercial and municipal loans, along with a full array of cash management services, to businesses, municipalities and non-profit organizations located in northern Vermont and New Hampshire. Our experienced Commercial Lending Team offers one of the best assets available to our customers; banking locally, where lending decisions are made at the local branch level and each customer receives personalized, individual help. We offer a wide variety of loan products and deposit services to help businesses succeed.

Mortgage Lending

2015 was another outstanding year for mortgage loan originations. In fact we had record performance in the ongoing revenue earned from servicing mortgage loans and near-record performance in the volume of mortgage loans originated. Repeat customers, client referrals, strong relationships with builders and realtors,

Advantage Banking. This package of services rewards and helps to retain these important depositors who contribute substantially to our ability to fund our extensive community lending activities. Participating customers earn special popular bank services such as complementary checks, ATM surcharge refunds, and higher CD rates. For more information, please contact our Customer Care Team at 1.800.753.4343.

Customer Service Investments

Union Bank's ongoing strong financial performance allows us to make regular strategic investments in our systems. Sometimes the benefits of these investments are readily apparent to customers, but often the improvements entail behind-the-scenes work to strengthen the integrity and performance of our banking network. In 2015 we made substantial investments in our computer systems and software to accelerate processing, enhance reliability, bolster security and reduce risk.

A visible representation of this was the

DIRECTORS

- Kenneth D. Gibbons - Chairman
- Steven J. Bourgeois
- John M. Goodrich
- Timothy W. Sargent
- David S. Silverman
- John H. Steel
- Schuyler W. Sweet
- Neil J. Van Dyke

OFFICERS

- Kenneth D. Gibbons - Chairman
- David S. Silverman - President & CEO
- Karyn J. Hale - Vice President/Treasurer/CFO
- John H. Steel - Secretary
- Kristy Adams Alfieri - Assistant Secretary
- Jeffrey G. Coslett - Vice President

OFFICERS

- Kristy Adams Alfieri - Assistant Secretary
- Diana M. Ashley - Assistant Treasurer
- Stacey M. Belanger - Assistant Treasurer
- Rhonda L. Bennett - Vice President
- Karen L. Blanchard Smith - Assistant Vice President
- Sherrie A. Bull - Vice President
- Stacey L.B. Chase - Assistant Vice President
- Barbara J. Churchill - Assistant Treasurer
- Everett C. Comstock - Assistant Treasurer
- Jeffrey G. Coslett - Senior Vice President
- Michael C. Curtis - Vice President
- Jennifer M. Degree - Assistant Vice President
- Ronald C. Dion - Assistant Vice President
- Jessica M. Eastman - Vice President
- Charles W. Goldstein - Assistant Vice President
- Don D. Goodhue - Vice President
- Jonathan J. Gould - Senior Vice President
- Melissa A. Greene - Vice President
- Paul E. Grogan - Facilities Officer
- Karyn J. Hale - Senior Vice President
- Randy L. Hannett - Assistant Treasurer
- Claire A. Hindes - Vice President

<p>attractive products and outstanding customer service helped drive this successful performance.</p> <p>The positive impact that Union Bank has made in the lives of such first time home buyers has been consistently recognized by the FDIC which rated Union Bank as Outstanding for our Community Reinvestment activities. In addition, Union Bank was once again recognized by the US Department of Agriculture as its Rural Development (RD) Home Loan Lender of the Year for Vermont.</p>	<p>establishment of our Customer Care Team to better handle phone support. When we installed a new phone system, we consciously elected to not institute an automated greeting to route customer calls based on touch tone responses. Instead customers reach Lisa, Jenn, Heather or our other service team members directly after an average wait time of just under nine seconds. Stay Local. Go Far.</p>	<p>DIRECTORS</p> <p>Kenneth D. Gibbons - Chairman</p> <p>Dawn D. Bugbee</p> <p>Steven J. Bourgeois</p> <p>John M. Goodrich</p> <p>Timothy W. Sargent</p> <p>David S. Silverman</p> <p>John H. Steel</p>	<p>Robert D. Hofmann - Senior Vice President</p> <p>Patricia N. Hogan - Senior Vice President</p> <p>Lura L. Jacques - Vice President</p> <p>Lynne P. Jewett - Vice President</p> <p>Therese H. Johansson - Vice President</p> <p>Stephen H. Kendall - Senior Vice President</p> <p>Susan F. Lassiter - Vice President</p> <p>Edward L. Levite - Senior Loan Originator</p> <p>Carrie R. Locklin - Vice President</p>
<p>Consumer Deposit Accounts</p> <p>Union Bank offers a range of deposit options from our school-based Save for Success Program to a program for our larger depositors.</p>	<p>In 2015 we introduced a freshened version of the Union Bank brand, a brand that has been synonymous with reliable, responsive community-focused banking services for 125 years. The revised branding was reflected in a range of traditional advertisements as well as online videos and social media initiatives. Our message of Stay Local Go Far reinforces the reality that in an era of impersonal mega-banks, a capable community bank is likely a more effective and less frustrating way to meet your banking needs. While the number of Vermont and New Hampshire community banks continues to shrink, we remain a vibrant community bank serving the financial needs of our local communities.</p>	<p>Schuyler W. Sweet</p> <p>Neil J. Van Dyke</p> <p>REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS</p> <p>Michael R. Barrett - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Joel S. Bourassa - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Steven J. Bourgeois - St. Albans</p> <p>Stanley T. Fillion - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Rosemary H. Gingue - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>John M. Goodrich - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Richard Isabelle - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Christopher M. Knapp - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Coleen K. Kohaut - St. Albans</p> <p>Justin P. Lavelly - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Daniel J. Luneau - St. Albans</p>	<p>Bonnie J. Losty - Vice President</p> <p>Jessica L. Machia - Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>John L. Malm - Vice President</p> <p>Grace E. Maniatty - Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Melynda J. Miller - Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Samantha A. Norrie - Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Tina L. Norton - Assistant Vice President</p> <p>Karen Carlson Noyes - Vice President</p> <p>Bradley S. Prior - Assistant Vice President</p> <p>Craig S. Provost - Vice President</p> <p>Robert J. Richardson - Vice President</p> <p>Christine A. Sheley - Regional Vice President</p> <p>David S. Silverman - President & CEO</p> <p>Abbie L. Small - Assistant Treasurer</p>
<p>All customers can benefit from our recently upgraded ATM network, our mobile check deposit feature and our arrangement with the Allpoint ATM network where Union Bank customers have totally fee-free access to over 55,000 ATM's in the US, Canada and other countries.</p> <p>For those customers who bring larger deposit balances to the bank, we offer</p>	<p>In 2015 we introduced a freshened version of the Union Bank brand, a brand that has been synonymous with reliable, responsive community-focused banking services for 125 years. The revised branding was reflected in a range of traditional advertisements as well as online videos and social media initiatives. Our message of Stay Local Go Far reinforces the reality that in an era of impersonal mega-banks, a capable community bank is likely a more effective and less frustrating way to meet your banking needs. While the number of Vermont and New Hampshire community banks continues to shrink, we remain a vibrant community bank serving the financial needs of our local communities.</p>	<p>Michael R. Barrett - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Joel S. Bourassa - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Steven J. Bourgeois - St. Albans</p> <p>Stanley T. Fillion - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Rosemary H. Gingue - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>John M. Goodrich - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Richard Isabelle - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Christopher M. Knapp - Northern New Hampshire</p> <p>Coleen K. Kohaut - St. Albans</p> <p>Justin P. Lavelly - St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Daniel J. Luneau - St. Albans</p>	<p>Judy R. Smith - Vice President</p>

	Curtis C. Swan - Vice President
Mary K. Parent - St. Johnsbury	Carrie W. Tallman - Assistant Treasurer
Samuel H. Ruggiano - St. Albans	Linda M. Watson - Assistant Treasurer
David S. Silverman - All	Melyssa S. Whitcomb - Assistant Vice President
Schuyler W. Sweet - Northern New Hampshire	Suzanne M. Whitney - Assistant Treasurer
	Lorraine G. Willett - Assistant Vice President

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VERMONT

Danville	421 Route 2 East	802-684-2211
Fairfax	Jct. Routes 104 & 128	802-849-2600
Hardwick	103 VT Route 15 West	802-472-8100
Jeffersonville	44 Main Street	802-644-6600
Johnson	198 Lower Main Street	802-635-6600
Lyndonville	183 Depot Street	802-626-3100
Newport	Loan Center	
	325 East Main Street	802-334-0750
Morrisville	20 Lower Main Street	802-888-6600
	65 Northgate Plaza	802-888-6860
St. Albans	15 Mapleville Depot	802-524-9000
St. Johnsbury	364 Railroad Street	802-748-3131
	325 Portland Street	802-748-3121
S. Burlington	Loan Center	
	30 Kimball Avenue	802-865-1000
Stowe	47 Park Street	802-253-6600

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Groveton	3 State Street	603-636-1611
Lincoln	135 Main Street	603-745-4000
Littleton	263 Dells Road	603-444-7136
	76 Main Street	603-444-5321
N. Woodstock	155 Main Street	603-745-2488

UBLOCAL.com
1-800-753-4343 (toll free)