

## St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

**Meeting:** January 17, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

1. **Opening prayer was given by Father John**

**Council members attending:**

Paul Novak – president  
Matt Tomac – vice president  
Tom Julian – treasurer  
Pedro Sarsama – corresponding secretary  
Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

**Guests:** Jeff Zdrade, Melissa Faith McNeil

Minutes from last month were reviewed. A motion was made to approve by Paul Novak, seconded by Tom Julian. Approved by all.

Jeff requested that decisions around expenditures, barring emergencies, should be discussed and approved by the parish council in full. Melissa questioned if the priest can approve expenditures. Father noted that the OCA gives the priest/proistamenos/rector, as the representative of the bishop, unilateral authority over many dimensions of parish life. However, this is not the case with financial decisions.

Food for the poor: all need to be made aware that food goods are taken to Paul's Pantry and to St. Joseph's. Paul ensured that pantry donation information will be included in the bulletin and newsletter.

A request was made that glass for the nice patronal icon be considered to protect it from degradation when the faithful venerate it.

A request was made to purchase candle protectors (e.g., little cups) that protect the candles and keep wax from dripping onto hands during Pascha.

**Review / clarification of old business:**

We will continue to support the St. Joseph Food Pantry. Paul made a motion to continue the food pantry program and deliver to Paul's Pantry and St. Joseph's...as is. Father suggested having the ministry team address this contribution. Paul will talk to the team.

## **Reports/updates/new business:**

### **1. Priest's report – Father John:**

Father Paul Jennakos will be coming for a Lenten retreat presentation. Paul made a motion for Father Paul and his wife be given \$200.00 for their travels to St. Matthew. This was seconded by Matt and agreed by all.

Deacon Spyridon had a good response for Typica at his home.

Father shared updates about several of the parishioners.

There is a Synaxis National retreat for the OCA in Chicago October 17-20, 2023. Father was encouraged to attend to stay current with new issues and stay in touch with other priests. Registration is \$150.00. Paul made a motion for St. Matthew to pay for the registration, seconded by Pedro and agreed by all

### **2. President's report – Paul Novak:**

The siding for the south outside wall will likely be delayed until early spring due to weather. The other walls look very nice.

The dishwasher quote for installation was over \$3,000. Misha Mykhaylyuk has agreed to install the dishwasher this weekend. Paul made a motion to have Misha install. This was seconded by Pedro and approved by all.

Paul spoke with Deacon Spyridon regarding building a wall in the narthex. He quoted \$300 worth of materials. Paul will present this project at the St. Matthew Annual meeting. This wall will have an icon or a few icons placed on it. Paul motioned for this project to move forward, seconded by Pedro and approved by all.

Paul reached out to Dimitri regarding the iconography project. Dimitri was in approval with the ideas. This includes all the uncovered walls. The projected date would be 2024. In the fall of 2023, we will start a formal fund raising program. Paul will discuss at the St. Matthew Annual meeting.

The annual meeting agenda was reviewed.

### **3. Vice President's report – Matt Tomac: none**

**4. Treasurer's report – Tom Julian:**

All bills are paid for 2022. We have met all obligations. The budget remained within \$800.

Payment for the 2022 Diocese dues were made with using the Legacy fund. \$3000 was paid to the diocese for 2022. All of that money was returned to the Legacy fund except for \$300.

The 2023 budget has been prepared. It is very similar when compared to last year. Insurance and utilities are the bills that have increased over the past year. We were also assessed for the sidewalk, about \$120. Our insurance also climbed about 20%. There was also a COLA Diocese increase. We are required to increase our contribution for Father's pension from 13% to 18%.

The preliminary / proposed budget for 2023 was reviewed. Jeff requested that Tom review what Project 42 is at the St. Matthew at the upcoming annual meeting. Melissa suggested that Tom give a historical explanation of how the project came to be. Of note, we continue to pay an additional \$313 to the principal every month.

Paul made a motion to approve the 2023 budget, seconded by Pedro and approved by all.

**5. Communicating secretary – Pedro:**

Pedro was accepted by St. Tikhon seminary and will be attending at the end of August.

Melissa requested some financial remuneration for Pedro and his family for the 2023 budget. Especially for the 2024 budget.

The next Council meeting will be March 14 at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn by Paul and seconded by Father John, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.