

St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: August 08, 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 - excused

Mark Massopust – corresponding secretary - excused

Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

Guests: Jeff Zdrale

Minutes from July were reviewed. Correction - House of Hope dinner will be in October. A motion was made to approve by Paul Novak, seconded by Matt. Approved by all.

Reports/updates/new business:

1. **Priest's report – Father John:**

Father sent out an email about phase 3 of the Iconography project. This will be placed in the weekly update and the Bulletin.

The Liturgical schedule has been developed and will be sent out this week. Liturgy will be held in Waupaca Saturday, September 02.

We approved getting new covers for the alter in Sister Bay. Deb Novak will be working on sewing these.

Liturgy will be held in Sister Bay this Monday, August, 14.

We are looking at October 07 for the Parish Vespers in Sister Bay.

Many thanks for those who helped with arranging and organizing the Sunday School classrooms and the Sunday School program.

Father will continue to search online for a site that creates Byzantine music.

There were 3 catechumens this past Sunday. There will be about 5 catechumens who will be received into the church on St. Matthew Sunday, November 12.

Randomly, people come to the church asking for money and have been given gift cards. There was some difficulty with this process and we will now give \$50 gift cards only. This is a church policy. Jeff mentioned similar difficulties in the distant past and suggested to refer these people to the Salvation Army for further assistance. Tom mentioned also giving the phone number and address to St. John's Homeless Shelter.

2. President's report – Paul Novak:

October 21 looks to be a good time for the annual bake sale at the church.

The coffee pot came apart last Sunday. We have ordered a new coffee pot and a stand. The stand will go between the two counters.

3. Vice presidents' report - Matt Tomac:

The cleaning list has been updated. Matt will make an announcement at church for more participants.

4. Treasurer – Tom Julian:

The budget was reviewed during the parish meeting last Sunday.

Pedro has been paid in full for the year.

The diocese is paid for to date.

We are getting miscellaneous cash which is very good.

Staggering Council member terms has been advised in the past. The rule is 3 terms, two year terms unless approved at the Annual Parish meeting.

Jeff mentioned that Isaac Crawmer is doing well with delivering the food. He did not know that he could obtain receipts and will be doing so from now on.

Regarding Sunday school – Jeff suggests that the children's singing practice be built into the regular Sunday school curriculum. He would take the older children aside to teach them. We will not schedule children's choir for now.

Two chairs for Father's office were quoted at \$129 per chair. Paul made a motion to purchase, seconded by Tom and approved by all.

The PC has been looking at icons to replace the icons that are presently on the iconostasis. Icons similar to our present icons were found at Damascus Gallery. They were asked if they could darken the gold background which would then blend better with the icons presently in our church. They are also looking for a St. Matthew icon that is facing the correct way, then we will discuss ordering one panel to be sure it is proper for our church. We continue to work on this project.

Tom has some additional bids on the roof. We received a good bid which is basically the same price as was given as a bid during the initial roof installment. We feel we can hold on this project until the iconography project is completed.

August 25-26 is a tentative date to complete installing the windows in Herrick Hall.

Placing icons on the Royal Doors are on hold for now as the 4 Apostles will be placed on the upper walls as medallions as part of the Iconography project.

The glass over the St. Matthew icon in the Narthex has been installed and looks nice.

Choir music digitalization (mentioned above) continues to be researched. Will determine if it is necessary. We scoured the web for music and were unable to find music for the Lamentations. We are trying to find texts that match the OCA books.

We continue to store the furniture for a neighbor in the large upstairs hall. The plan is for her to remove it at the end of this month.

The next Council meeting will be September 12 at 6:00 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.