

St. Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: December 13, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:0 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 - excused

Elaine Gavaras – recording secretary

Guests: Jeff Zdrale

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.

Minutes from last month were reviewed. Motion made to approve by Paul Novak, seconded by Mathew Tomac. All approved.

Reports/updates/new business:

1. **Priest's report – Father John:**

Father advises that formal email conversations are made on issues that are brought up between council meetings.

There are several photos from the Typica which was performed at Deacon Spyridon's house that will be placed in the bulletin.

There continues to be more new people attending services. Father also comments that people are becoming more engaged in the services.

Father gave some updates on people who are recovering from illnesses and will be returning to church.

Father and his family will be leaving December 25 and returning on January 03 to visit family. There will be Hours and Typica services on December 31 and January 01.

2. President's report – Paul Novak:

I wanted to update the PC on the recent activity around a new hot water heater and dishwasher. Because of our continued growth as a parish there have been discussions over time about the need for a larger hot water heater and in getting a second dishwasher. During a recent conversation in the kitchen Tom received feedback that now was the time for us to get the larger hot water heater and dishwasher. This request to move forward with these items was followed up with \$2,500 being donated very quickly. Thank you Tom for driving this fundraising! After doing some research, and with the funds in hand, a new 50 gallon electric hybrid hot water heater and dishwasher were purchased from Menards. The total cost including the delivery charge and extended warranty on the hot water heater came to \$2,343. As such, all costs were covered via the donations.

The two items were delivered to the Church. I met with Misha on Dec. 3rd to discuss the installation of these two items. Misha will work to complete the install ASAP. I will keep the PC updated and we can place this email content into the next PC meeting minutes. As this activity was done in between PC meetings emails were exchanged amongst the PC and this activity was approved by the PC.

There was discussion with some parishioners to consider a hold on major fund raising at this time. Consideration voiced for raising iconography funds starting around fall 2023 for completion 2024. Tom made a motion for Paul to reach out to Dimitri for further iconography information and dates. Father seconded.

There is a sign "St. Matthew Orthodox Church" and a cross that was on the outside sign which can be placed in a different part of the church. Some areas to consider are the front door. The sign will be placed above the door and the cross to the side of the door. Paul made a motion to approve, seconded by Matt. All approved.

In review of the narthex area, there is consideration of placing a wall which would hide the coat and bathroom area. When walking into the church, the view will then be of possible icons or a candle stand instead of the bathroom. A motion was made by Father to discuss this wall project with Deacon Spyridon and obtain a quote, seconded by Paul and approved by all.

Paul is reaching out to Orthodox Images to look at placing the four Evangelist Saints on the Royal Doors. We are awaiting price quote.

3. Vice President's report – Matt Tomac:

The urinal was repaired after purchasing parts.

4. Treasurer's report – Tom Julian:

Deposits for November were \$14,517. Monthly expenses are slightly over \$10,000. Green Bay utilities were very high, \$425 last month. Fixed expenses are up about \$800 compared to last year. We continue to pay an additional payment on the church mortgage. We currently have money on hand for all bills.

A letter was received from the diocese that our parish was delinquent in assessment payments. A discussion was had regarding payment of the delinquent in diocese payments from 2019, 2021, 2022. Father put together a letter to reply back to the Diocese requesting relief on a portion of the payments. We are waiting on a response from the Diocese.

5. Communicating secretary – Pedro: None

New business:

Planning for the annual parish meeting is tentatively January 29, 2023.

Jeff made a suggestion adding another cross at the peak on the far left of the church roof.

Tom made a suggestion placing new roofing on the left side of the roof.

Paul made a comment that the choir has sounded very good.

Old business:

It may be possible to replace all the windows on the south side of Herrick Hall with the monies left from raising money for the siding.

The Bishop's visit went very well.

The next Council meeting will be January 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Paul and seconded by Matthew, approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Father gave the closing prayer.