

St. Matthew Orthodox Church

Annual Parish Meeting

February 14, 2021

Opening prayer by Father Eugene at 3:04

Rollcall was completed and it was considered that a quorum was met.

Review and approval of the minutes from last year. Minutes will be emailed to parishioners.

Father Eugene, Priest's report: there were many difficulties which the church needed to address due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Father thanked the parish council as there were many decisions that needed to be made during this time and he is appreciative of the prayerfulness and collegiality, their ability to come together as a group, so we could move forward as a parish. Father also thanked everyone for their patience and cooperation in the changes that were made liturgically. He is grateful to everyone for their commitment and dedication to continue as a community. Father had to make difficult decisions which he felt was in the best interest of the community. We are now in a better situation regarding services, returning to a somewhat more normal rhythm. We have Great Lent approaching and we will have plenty of opportunity for worship. He is planning the schedule now. There will be a few more services than in the past. The time for us to prepare for Great Lent is now.

Dorothy moved to accept Father's comments and Matt seconded. Approved by all.

Paul Novak, President's report: Paul also thanked the parish for their cooperation during the pandemic. He also thanked those who were front-line workers. Paul presented a slideshow to share the changes, challengers and celebrations over the past year. Paul also thanked the community for their financial support. We met our financial obligations without worry. We will continue using this forum for our future parish meetings. Jeff requested a email be sent to the parishioners for upcoming meetings. He also suggested a recap of the Council meeting in the bulletin and leave three weeks' worth of bulletins on the candle table. Paul wanted to remind everyone that the bulletin is posted on the St. Matthew website. He thanked Linda Bisbee for all her hard work with the newsletter. Update on the Diocesan Assembly: this was a 2 hour virtual meeting. Two items were addressed – the budget which was voted for approval. The other major item was that there are no monasteries in the mid-west. There was a piece of property in Missouri which has been established by two nuns. An interview with one of the nuns is on the website of the Diocesan. Once we are together again, Paul would like us to meet to decide on what we would like to focus on as a parish – fall festival, iconography, etc.

Jeff thanked Paul for putting together the slideshow.

Jeff motioned to approve Paul's comments, seconded by Matt. Approved by all.

Matt Tomac, Vice President's report: Matt also thanked everyone for all their hard work in maintaining the church – projects, cleaning team, etc. The corner closet was rearranged, the trees removed. The upstairs stairwell still needs to be addressed, depending on availability of people and finances.

Jeff motioned to approve Matt's comments, seconded by Cheryl. Approved by all.

Tom Jullian, treasurer's report: budget report was reviewed (see attached). He discussed yearly budget, recurring monthly budget and 2021 pending projects. Mark Kotz commented on the Nave improvements. He felt that there could be better use of video communications between parishioners and the Bishop. We are currently working with the local credit union to consider refinancing/combining both the church loan and the parking lot loan into a 20 year term note, with 3.5% with a monthly payment of \$1188.00. Tom is proposing to pay a higher payment when we have the extra funds (\$227.00), to decrease the time of the loan and payment of interests, potentially saving over \$42,081.

Melissa moved to pay a higher payment when we have the extra funds, seconded by Joy Jeffers. Approved by all (100%).

Another area on treasurer's report: The 2020 budget and the proposed 2021 budget was reviewed and discussed (see attached). Projects discussed including iconography, lighting, etc. Jeff brought up a concern regarding seminarian/vestment account since we no longer have a seminarian at St. Tikhon's. the line will remain for possible deacon cost. There will also be some adjustments to the labeling of local ministries and House of Hope. Line 33 will be renamed.

Bonita motioned to approve budget, aside for some labeling changes and Dorothy seconded. Approved by 96%.

Election of officers: Paul and Tom have agreed to remain on the council.

The above was approved by all (100%).

Diocesan assembly will likely be virtual again. Paul has volunteered to attend along with Father. The assembly date has not been set as of yet. A vote was asked to approve Paul as the delegate.

The above was approved by all (100%).

New business: Will Morgan has taken care of the library for years. Will would like to step away from this responsibility. There is now a need for someone to tend to the library and Paul asks that if anyone is interested, to please contact him.

There was a concern regarding baking prosphora and Tom encouraged anyone to step forward to consider baking. Anyone interested is encouraged to discuss with Bonita.

Jeff commented that it has been nice to see new people come to our parish especially during the pandemic.

Our number for church attendants during liturgy is 35. Father has been discussing increasing numbers with Bishop Paul. Increasing numbers is contingent on the pandemic.

Jeff motioned for adjournment, seconded from Bonita. Approved by all.

Father led closing prayer at 4:55 pm.