

## 2023 St. Matthew Orthodox Church Annual Meeting

Date: January 28, 2024

Opening prayer by Father John Thetford at 11:45am.

A quorum was met, with 47 members in attendance.

Last year's minutes from the annual meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve by Paul Novak and seconded by Mark Schahczenski. Approved by all.

### **Report by Father John:**

Father John wanted to give thanks to everyone who supports and gives to our community throughout the year.

### **Events in the past year:**

Funerals = 2

Wedding = 1

Marriage blessing = 1

Baptisms = 6

Chrismation = 5

Father proposed to make our ministries services more structured: Ministry team, bookstore, choir, building and garden committees would be part of ministries. Each ministry would have a list of responsibilities with direction and purpose / goals. This need in change is a result of the growth of our parish. This would allow our ministry leaders to have a 'fixed' position with their name placed on our website along with the ministry description. This would allow the ease of parishioners to contact the leaders directly if needed.

Father read a message from our seminarian, Pedro Sarsama who is currently in the St. Tikhon Seminary program. Pedro and his family are doing well. The letter will be available to read on the information board.

Paul Novak made a motion on Father John's report, seconded by Doug Bisbee. Approved by all.

**Report by President, Paul Novak:**

We have seen a growth in our church with many people attending, are considering joining, or have joined our church over the past year.

Paul also wanted to thank everyone for contributing to both the work and the improvement of the church.

Some exciting projects in the new future include the iconography project which continues to move forward. When this phase is completed, we will have accomplished a large project in just 7 years.

There are many ways to review how we are growing as a church. We are planning to create a business plan which will help with establishing goals for growth.

Tom Julian made a motion to approve Paul's report which was seconded by Nathaniel Tomac. Majority approved.

**Report by Tom Julian, Treasurer:** see attached.

Tom thanked everyone for giving to the church. We are a generously giving church, able to meet our financial responsibilities. We were able to achieve our financial responsibilities this last year and also give all our fund-raising monies to support our ministries. He pointed out that 99% of the OCA parishes in the United States need fund raising monies to pay their financial obligation. We are doing very well.

Operational costs:

Income

2023 Budget = \$172,300.

2023 Actual = \$193,107.

2024 proposed budget = \$201,500.

Expense

2023 Budget = \$172,300.

2023 Actual = \$159,755.

2024 proposed Budget = \$201,300.

Some changes that occurred over the past year that affected the budget: Our liability insurance and water bill went up dramatically over the past year.

We gave more money to ministries last year than the year before. **All** fundraiser proceeds this past year went to designated ministries. Our goal for ministries giving: 10% of operational cost is \$17,000. Our current ministries and seminarian budget is \$13,200.

We have about \$30,000 saved for iconography and will need an additional \$30,000.

Our fall festival was very successful and plans to have another festival this fall.

There are several ways to give other than in person. Parishioners are now able to go into two different apps, Zelle or Alpos, to access for online giving.

All cash proceeds to mortgage reduction:  $\$1187 + \$313 = \$1,500$  monthly for a balance owed of \$167,000. Tom voiced that if all parishioners considered giving an extra \$42.00 per month through the P42 program, the amount would be about \$18,000 extra dollars to help pay the mortgage sooner. In 2023, we had a total of \$11,000 which was given through the P42 program.

We regularly have 90-120 people who attend church each Sunday with a lot of new faces. Tom requested that the young people consider donating their time to the church. Tom is 'always amazed' at the talents in our church. He thanked everyone and asks to keep up the great work.

The next big expense is the roof, which will be about \$32,000. That will need to be addressed in the next 1-2 years. We are trying to be responsible by considering raising the monies sooner to prevent another loan for the church.

Biggest challenge and goals in the next year: reduce mortgage, continue to give, manage operational obligations.

Jeffrey Bryant motioned to approve the 2023 budget and Tom's report, seconded by Linda Bisbee. Approved by all.

#### Report by Matt Tomac, Vice President:

Matt is asking all to consider volunteering to help clean the church. Matt reviewed the responsibilities for cleaning.

We have an ad hoc building committee which was approved several years ago. This committee has not met for some time and may consider reconvening to look at other work in the church property.

Katheryn Wieland voted to approve Tom's report, seconded by Paul Novak. Approved by all.

The Recording Secretary position is currently open. Jeff Zdrade and Vera Limberopoulos were nominated for consideration. Ballots were distributed and counted. Vera was named to the new Corresponding Secretary position.

Melissa McNeil made a motion that Paul Novak attend the Dioceses Assembly. If Paul is unable to attend, then Matt Tomac would attend. This motion request was seconded by Vera Limberopoulos. Approved by all.

There was some discussion regarding the urgency of replacing the church roof. We had one quote of \$32,000 and are currently looking for a second quote.

Peggy Roman approached the parishioners that there is a need for volunteers for the floral arrangements for the festal icons if we wish to continue this service. She is willing to give instructions in how to make the arrangements and noted that there is reimbursement for monies. She asked that if anyone is interested, to contact her.

Dorothy Olson thanked the parish for the upgrade on the water heater and installation of the second dishwasher. She is concerned that the oven may need to be updated. This is a known item of need by the Parish Council and will be addressed.

Paul Novak states the council has agreed to upgrade the women's bathroom. This will be addressed after the Narthex wall has been built.

Sara Tomac commented that Father John, Cheryl Julian and Mark Massopust created/developed a great Sunday School program this year. It is very thorough and easy to follow. She appreciated the work.

Photini Roegner has been teaching the young adults regarding the Saints. This has been going well.

Father John noted that the Waupaca Chapel, Saint Macrina, is on the path to becoming a Mission. This is an exciting time for the Chapel.

Tom Julian made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Matt Tomac Two opposed. Majority approved.

Adjournment and closing prayer 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Gavaras