



St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: October 14, 2025

Zoom meeting called order at 6:01 pm

Opening prayer was given by Father John

Council members attending:

Father John Thetford - rector

Paul Novak – president

Matt Tomac - vice president

Tom Julian – treasurer

Vera Limberopoulos - recording secretary

Noah Becker – corresponding secretary (absent)

guests: Danny Panella, Jeff Zdrate, Chuck, Elaine

comments / conversations with guests: Tom brought up previous conversations with church members regarding potential security issues. Tom had shared a document w/council with a tentative action plan. This Security Action Plan, would take measures to address security within our church and be implemented at a later point in time. Tom and Kaine B would work with others to implement it. Father titled this as The Door Keepers Ministry. Paul proposed that we formulate The Door Keepers Ministry, with the leader to be determined later, and including formalized greeters. The motion passed (5 yay, 1 absent). Limited details in these minutes for security reasons. More information to follow at church.

-Paul reports that all council positions and their rolls and responsibilities will be published on the Saturday blast email, in the Sunday bulletin and on the bulletin board in Herrick Hall. Also, all council terms that are ending and members that would like to remain on the ballot for an additional term will also be published.

Announcements will also be made on the Sunday's leading up to the elections, reminding the parish of the positions on the ballot. This topic will also be brought up during the St Matthew annual dinner on November 16th. Matt and Vera relayed that they would like to stay in their current council positions when the ballot opens in January 2026.

-The minutes of the September meeting will be submitted later due to technical difficulties.

Priest's report – Father John

We keep getting a steady stream of new people and to continue the good work of welcoming new faces.



- We're doing well with the servers. A couple of servers have been added and more will be added soon.
- With the prosphora bakers we continue to have a good group with more than enough bakers this past month.
- The bishop's visit is set. An email was sent to Sarah with the liturgical changes.
- St Matthew's Day is November 16th. A small group of people will be received into the church.
- The men's group meeting, the women's group meeting and Waupaca liturgy are coming up.
- Father and Melissa A. spoke regarding the meals for St John's Shelter. He plans on shifting to make the chili at church for the meal. This would alleviate the heavy workload from a few people and open it up to more participation.
- There has been a notable increase in the past few months at the Waupaca services. This increase could allow more opportunities such as renting a storefront. Father is looking forward to the bishop's feedback and ideas when he visits.
- Father put in a request to the bishop to have off on the weekend of Thanksgiving (Nov 29th and 30th) so he could be away with relatives for the baptism of his daughter.

Vice-president's report: Matt

- He put adjustable feet on the icon stands candle stands.

President's report: Paul

The Nave closet renovation is getting closer. The wall has been cleared. Misha would like some of the drywall down so he can access the electric for removal. This will go forward after the bishops visit.

- Paul is coordinating food for the Sunday of the bishop's visit (October 19th) to make sure we have a good fellowship meal.

Treasure report: Tom

- Financial reports for October were sent to council members.
- The fall festival netted almost \$3400 which went into the ministry fund. This includes what we raised, the donation of the meat, the honey, and additional gifts that came in on Sunday. We also received \$150 towards the meals. We have fallen off P42 donations, except for a few regular donors. Our loose cash goes towards paying towards the mortgage with P42, with additional \$1,000 payments of per month. Without direct giving, we will not have enough to pay the additional \$1,000 in November. Our current loan note matures in March 2026. The current loan balance is \$143,991.66. If we reach our target of continued additional monthly payments of \$1,000, the refinance amount would be \$135,000 in March.



- The closet remodel deposit has been made for \$2,500, with approximately \$5,000 remaining balance.
- We are anticipating upcoming expenses: the St Matthew's dinner, paying for the bishop's visit, Christmas flowers, seminary support (due in January but previously paid at Christmas).
- The giving statements go out at the end of the third quarter. They would need to be printed and sent out soon. This information will be included in the church email. If you would like your giving statement, let Tom know and he will generate just those.

new business:

- Paul announced that he will not be here for the fall festival next year, so someone else will have to step up and take the reins. Melissa A informed Tom that she will put a ministry team together to run the fall festival in 2026. Father agreed that the ministry team could manage the festival since the funds are for ministry.
- The PA system is up and running. Some items that were not needed were returned.
- No updates on the AED.
- The bylaws of the church were sent out to all council members. The bylaws will be added to the church website and on the bulletin board in Herrick Hall for viewing.
- Council relayed discussions with some of the church mothers. In their youth, they had gone to church summer camp and really enjoyed it. Service trips for team agers were brought up as a form of ministry. Father John liked the idea for youth service trips but would have to handle it himself due to the legal aspects of it.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, approved by all.

Father John gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01.

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