



## St Matthew Orthodox Church Parish Council Meeting

Meeting: November 11, 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

A clarification was made to the minutes that were submitted.

Paul made a motion to approve the September 9<sup>th</sup> council meeting minutes. Approved by all. Paul made a motion to approve the October 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting minutes. Approved by all.

### Priest's report – Father John

-The bishop's visit went well. He received very good feedback and reported to the cathedral that things went well.

-The December liturgical schedule has been sent out. November 29-30<sup>th</sup> father will be out of town. Typica is scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

-The recent men's meeting went well, with the next one to be scheduled for February. December 6<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer K will be having the next women's meeting.

-Tonight, the church is hosting a meal at St John's Shelter. We have had good response from members to participate.

-Father has investigated service projects options for younger members of our parish. St Paul's Monastery in Marietta, WI is in the process of becoming an OCA monastery. It is approximately an hour west of Madison, near Boscobel. The bishop and the diocese will put out notices for work crews to come to help get it running. It needs a lot of work on the grounds and with buildings, which could provide an opportunity for volunteers. The bishop stated that he will ask for work groups for teens and young men.

-Waupaca's community continues to look for a place to rent for their chapel. Fr John and Paul will be more proactive.



-Father suggested to increase the budget for the ministry team by 10 – 15%. This would bring it on par with the national level. This could be partially achieved by ramping up the fall festival.

-The catechism class will start again in December. There will be some families with small kids. Father anticipates 25 – 30 new people coming into the church next year. Also, father is doing some phone catechism for some individuals when needed. Three people will be received into the church this Sunday, the 16th. Additionally, 4 – 7 people will be received into the church in January.

- There were new people here and in Waupaca this past Sunday.

- We will need to have a public conversation with the parish about starting a mission in the southern Fox Valley within the next 5 years or so. This would be connected to or combined to the Waupaca mission. This is so that we can accommodate all the people that are coming to our church as we continue to grow. He will bring it up the topic at the St Matthew dinner.

#### **Vice-president's report: Matt**

-Matt reports that Peggy asked about the possibility of putting some icons lower so that the children could venerate them. Father had seen a crate with laminated icons that the kids could hold (at other parishes). Father and Matt will explore the options.

#### **President's report: Paul**

(In new business)

#### **Treasure report: Tom**

-An email was forwarded to council with an attachment listing all balances. We have cash on hand to pay the balance of the cost for the remodel, and the iconostasis icons when billed. We have the December mortgage payment on hand but no surplus in the P42 fund. All major November payments have been paid except for the pension payment and the building insurance. Three new rugs were purchased for the nave. Upcoming expenses will be allocated and moved to make snow payments. It was suggested to have the plow square off and plow east of the upper circle drive, pushing it back an additional 15 feet onto the lawn to increase parking. After January 1<sup>st</sup> we will be looking to paint the upper-level foyer. Nativity flowers cost approximately \$500. It was suggested to request Christmas flower monetary donations in early December.

- The committed P42 donations bring in approximately \$600 a month. Monthly, we pay out about \$2200 toward the mortgage. Those additional funds that are donated are unpredictable. The mortgage payment is \$1187, resulting in approximately an extra \$1,000 towards principle. We are anticipating having to refinance approximately \$135,000. If it is done on a ten-year note, we could pay it off in five years if payments continue as we are currently making them.



- In 2025: we remodeled the women's rest room, the nave closet and founder's hall, we sealed the parking lot, added a sound system, paid for phase three of the iconography, continue to work on the south side and window project. We still have some uncompleted projects: the stairwell, kitchen upgrade, finishing founder's hall, upper foyer, delaying the upper entrance concrete, the north side of the building is different than the south side and parking lot expansion. It was suggested that the stairwell and paying down the mortgage should be priorities in 2026.

-Our goal has been to give away a minimum of 10% of our gross receipts to ministries ( benevolence, House of Hope, etc.), which we are getting close to. Tom can add the additional 10 -15 % allocation that Father suggested to the January budget.

-Tom reminded us that he will no longer be treasurer after February. The last major thing that Tom will be working with Paul (and Danny) on is the mortgage. He would like to have sense of urgency in paying down the mortgage (before the refinance). There's a lot of long-term projects that Father would like to do but will not be possible if we must pay a \$2200 monthly mortgage payment. It would be nice to have more surplus on hand since we've been doing a lot of ministries and outreach.

#### **new business:**

-Paul brought up the agenda to be presented during our Saint Matthew dinner: Paul will start with a thank you to Jeff for his years of service, etc. Father will present the topic of growth. Tom will present a synopsis of our budget highlighting the upcoming mortgage refinance. Deb will make the fudge ribbon cake for the dinner.

-The annual church meeting will be on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Paul sent email to the parish listing the positions, duties, and terms for parish council members, and who is going out. He received good feedback. Noah might know someone that would like to run for parish council. He will let Paul know if so.

#### **old business:**

-Expansion project: The walls have been painted. The ceiling will be worked on tomorrow. There has been a challenge with the flooring. The current flooring thickness that is available 1/32" thinner. They no longer make thicker flooring. The contractor will taper it in so that it won't be obvious.

-The door keeper ministry: This ministry would be greeters with knowledge of how to respond in various situations. Father suggested that when we get an AED, the keepers could also be trained in how to use the AED and how to use a fire extinguisher. The upper north door will continue to have very limited access. More information could possibly be shared via the church directory if needed as the door keeper ministry evolves. Paul put information in the Saturday email stating those interested can contact Father. Father suggested that Rob might be a good possibility to lead the group. Father will schedule a meeting within the next few weeks and will notify those that expressed interest in participating (Tom, Chuck, Rob, John, Kaine, Issac, Ezra). Paul suggested those interested in history can research "door keepers in the early orthodox church".



- Dmitry called Tom and informed him that the icons for the Iconostasis are done. Tom will have them shipped to his home. He does not believe that they have been shipped yet. When they arrive, mounting will be simple.

- Noah currently does not have any updates regarding obtaining an AED.

Paul made a motion to adjourn, approved by all.

Father John gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46.

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St. Matthew Orthodox Church



Green Bay, WI



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