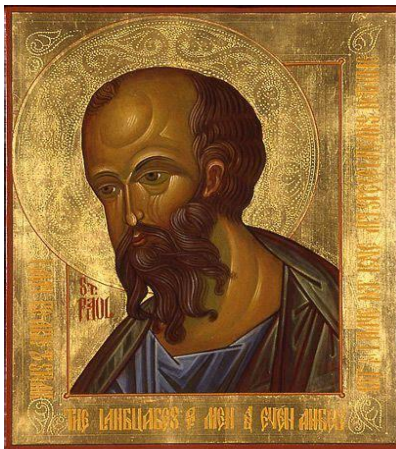


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**Annual Parish Meeting  
of  
St Paul The Apostle Orthodox Church**

**Minutes  
January 26, 2025**



**Participants**

**Priest-in-charge**

Priest Silouan Cohen

**Parish Council**

Subdeacon Juvenaly Wayne Crise, *Warden*

Matthew Magee, *Treasurer*

Hannah Land, *acting Secretary (nominated to take minutes at this meeting)*

**Parish members & guests:** John Green, Theresa Green, Subdeacon Thomas Davis, Mary Davis, Emily Harms, Aaron Harms, Andrei Gouzien, Rebecca Meals, Matushka Katie Cohen, David Land, Augustine Hundt, Sebastian Kirby, Russ Phocas Snow, Andrea Brigid Snow, Lydia Paraskevas, Nicholas Paraskevas, Macrina Barno, Matushka Patricia Storozuk, Gretchen Coyle, Reid Whitman. Jack McGovern.

**Absent**

Darlene Anna Karpis, *Secretary*

Elijah Lewis Ray, *council member*

**A. Call to order**

With Fr Silouan’s blessing, Matthew Magee called the meeting to order, seconded by Emily Harms. Matthew Magee and Fr Silouan counted voting members for quorum. 18 of 24 voting members were present.

**B. Opening prayer**

Fr Silouan led the participants in prayer at 12:40pm.

**C. Agenda Introduced**

Fr Silouan addressed the agenda indicating those who would be making reports at the meeting. In Darlene Karpis’s absence, Fr Silouan asked Hannah Land to record the minutes.

**D. Priest’s Report**

Fr Silouan formally introduced himself to the parish, reading a letter of introduction. His letter also included his intentions and expectations for St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church, summarized in three categories: Liturgical, non-liturgical, and parish membership. He introduced new services to the liturgical schedule, as well as expectations regarding confession. He listed various ways our parish could be more involved in the greater Denison/Sherman community, but especially how we could build our spiritual cohesion as a church community. He explained what constituted a parishioner verses a visitor at St Paul’s. And lastly, he mentioned that to prevent conflicts with scheduling, no matters in the parish ought to be planned, discussed, or implemented independently of Fr Silouan.

**E. Nominees for parish council; acknowledging previous members**

Fr Silouan presented the following nominees for parish council 2025: Augustine Hundt, *Warden*, Hannah Land, *Secretary*, Aarons Harms, *councilman*, Matthew Magee, *Treasuer*. He acknowledged Subdeacon Juvenaly, Darlene Karpis (absent) and Elijah Ray (absent) for their service on the council.

**MINUTES – Annual Parish Meeting  
January 26, 2025**

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Lastly, he thanked Subdeacon Thomas Davis and Subdeacon Juvenaly Crise for their work for the parish in the years with minimal priest presence.

**F. Committees**

Fr Silouan discussed various needs and possibilities for service in the parish to include a bereavement group, a burial society and meal provision group. He noted that Matushka Katie had led a bereavement group in a previous parish with success.

The desire also for a burial society was mentioned with possibly inviting a parishioner (unnamed) from a nearby sister parish to lead a class. Finally, Fr Silouan reminded the parish of the success of a previous “meal train” scenario after the birth of parish member in 2024. Several members of St Paul’s signed up to provide meals and/or groceries for this family in need. All interested were told to take charge accordingly.

**G. Special dates:**

March 25, 2025, Bishop Gerasim serving Vesperal Divine Liturgy at St Paul’s. Also, the faithful of St Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Mission in Paris, Texas have been invited to join St Paul’s for Sunday of Orthodoxy celebrations. Fr Silouan expressed his gratitude for the St Thomas Mission coming to celebrate Theophany and the Blessing of the Waters with St Paul’s on January 5.

**H. Warden’s Report**

Subdeacon Juvenaly Crise highlighted the completed projects at St Paul’s in 2024, (named in the treasurer’s report) but emphasized the various aesthetic touches required to beautify the property going into 2025.

**I. Treasurer’s Report**

Matthew McGee presented the treasurer’s report centering on the following points:

- 2024 Annual Financial Report (included as a hard copy in the meeting packet)
- Projects Completed and their costs
- January to August 2024 Summary
- August to December 2024 Summary

**MINUTES – Annual Parish Meeting**  
**January 26, 2025**

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- 2025 Proposed Budget (included as a hard copy in the meeting packet) with goal to become self-sustaining by January 2027.
- Discussion and Questions
  - Question Discussing Emergency funding- with explanation that the “priest fund” is not truly a fund solely for the priest but can be used as a “reserve fund” for emergencies as well.
  - Question Discussing creating a priority list (“wish list”) of Church projects and items being made available for Parishioners to see.

**Motion** to approve the 2025 budget: Fr. Silouan

**Second:** Andrei Gouzien

**Vote:** all in favor

Budget Passed for 2025

**Motion** to close the meeting: Matthew Mcgee

**Second:** Andrei Gouzien

**Vote:** All in favor

**The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer led by Fr. Silouan**

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Land