

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
**Council meeting minutes, April 26,2026**

**Attendees:** Fr. Chris, Dennis, Jake, Jacob & Steve Fall, Jerry Kistner, Matt Cuper, Paula McDaniels, and Steve Dzubay.

Also, Lynnae Kistner, Val Fall, Lilly Fall, Jacob Anderson (State Patrol), Mike Judy (Barron Co. Emergency Mgt. Director), and Ben Strohbach (Clear Lake Police Asst. Chief).

**Call to order** by President Dennis Fall at 11:40 pm with Fr. C leading singing of "Christ is Risen."

Judy had been invited by Kistner to discuss church emergency preparedness for weather, local emergencies, 'unwanted' visitors, etc. Judy characterized emergencies at three levels; natural disasters (tornadoes, fires, etc.); man-made disasters (chemical/gas leaks, etc.), and emergencies like active shooters, etc. He invited HTOC to join BC's list of emergency shelters – exercised only in the event of area emergencies (house fires, hazmat spills) that require short-term relocation of neighbors. He noted only once has it been exercised in the past year for an incident in Cumberland.

Judy encouraged Barron Co. church members to sign-up for "Code Red," the e-notification service that pings cellphones when an event occurs in a precise geographic area. Adjacent counties use like e-notification services used only in extreme situations.

He offered advice on site-based safe areas to shelter during storm events; suggested that "run-hide-fight" remains the most effective mantra when personal safety is threatened; and locked doors are a strong deterrent when an aggressor attacks any room or site. Form a 'Safety Team' to build and execute plans for dealing with emergencies. Familiarize with performing CPR and AED. Assemble a stop-the-bleed kit – including an epi-pen – to deal with emergencies. Schedule quarterly or periodic training sessions. (*"If something happened, what would we do?"*)

Both Judy and Strohbach suggested the council conduct a hazard assessment, using the resources assembled by Barron County. He gave us printed materials and a thumb-drive holding BC's forms and its entire planning document. Regarding a potential active-shooter event, both officers encouraged fostering education of church members who hold concealed-carry licenses, and if warranted, utilize them quietly during service, despite any potential legal liability. If someone unknown appears, displaying suspicious behavior, "attach yourself to them" Judy suggested, helping determine their motivations and chaperoning them around the property until they leave.

**Minutes** from March 22, 2026, meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Fall, seconded by Steve Fall.

Jacob Fall presented the **treasurer's report**, highlighting his difficulty transferring one parishioner's contribution from a proprietary not-for-profit intermediary, and asking direction to shift some of the checking balance to higher interest-earning CDs. Motion by Cuper, seconded by McDaniels to approve the report. We also received an anonymous \$7k gift from a visitor, dedicated to the endowment fund.

**Pastor's report** highlighted a joyous Holy Week and Pascha with thank you to everyone for adapting to the extra basement seating, the indoor/outdoor procession, and post-Pascha dining room cleanup. He noted action with confessions, spiritual direction, and onboarding of inquirers. Also, Nick and Shania Adams will be Chrismated and Baptized (respectively) on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Newcomer orientation will be held May 3, led by him and Dennis Fall, and will focus on HTOC's history, church etiquette, volunteer opportunities, and Q & A. Blessing for high school graduates Moira Brabant and Katelyn Roessler will occur on May 10<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday School will conclude May 17<sup>th</sup>. Fr. C will be absent Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, but Monk Mark will lead a Reader's Service.

Sisterhood and Cemetery reports were skipped, due to time constraints, but it was suggested a "task list" for **grounds spruce-up** be posted on the bulletin board.

A sign-up sheet for June 19-20 **Cheese Days** concession trailer will be posted on the church website. Kistner noted that he'll contact the **exterminator** to check over the basement for vermin.

**Next meeting** was set for Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting was adjourned about 1:40 pm on a motion by Kistner, seconded by Steve Fall. Fr. Chris led the group in singing of "Christ is Risen."

*Steve Dzubay, secretary*