

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER BOSTON

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Sunday, February 2, 1992

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was held on Sunday, February 2, 1992, following Church Services, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall.

The Assembly was called to order by Albert Zouranjian, Chairman of the Parish Council, at 12:50 p.m. He welcomed and thanked the parishioners for their attendance.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Reverend Father Mampre A. Kouzouian, Pastor, who asked those present to join with him in reciting the prayer in English and Armenian.

George W. Haroutunian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for the day's Tivan as follows:

Chairman: Donald Tellalian and Eugene Raphaelian
Recording Secretary: Carol Krikorian and Rose Minassian

Eugene Raphaelian declined his nomination. Additional nominations for Chairman of the Day were asked from the floor. There being no further nominations, a Motion was made and seconded that Donald Tellalian be elected Chairman of the Assembly. MOTION PASSED.

Rose Minassian declined her nomination for Secretary. Additional nominations were asked from the floor. Mabel Tashjian was nominated. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. There was an open vote for Recording Secretary with Carol Krikorian being elected.

Donald Tellalian, in addressing the Assembly, thanked the Nominating Committee and the Assembly on behalf of himself and Carol Krikorian for electing him Chairman and Carol Krikorian, Secretary. He stated that he appreciated their vote of confidence and hoped to conduct the Assembly in a fair and effective manner.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the Agenda for the Assembly to:

- Add "Appoint a Parliamentarian" between Nos. 2 and 3.
- Change No. 3, "Reading" to "'Approval' of Minutes", etc.
- Add "and reading of the Minutes" to No. 10.
- Add "Old Business and New Business" between Nos. 10 and 11.
- Add "and closing of Meeting" to No. 13. MOTION PASSED.

The following were nominated for Parliamentarian for the Day: Mary Killelea, nomination seconded; Robert Goshgarian, George Alexander, Walter Vartanian, Peter Talanian, and Gerald Ajemian all declined. Nominations were closed. A motion was made and seconded to accept Mary Killelea as Parliamentarian for the Day. MOTION PASSED.

A motion was made and seconded that the reading of each and every report would be suspended, except for those that would be elaborated upon at the appropriate time. MOTION PASSED.

MINUTES OF 1991 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Chairman of the Assembly called for a reading by the Recording Secretary of portions of the Minutes of the 1991 Annual Assembly; specifically, pages 2a to 2d - Stewardship Program, 2h, and 2i. Upon the reading of the Minutes, the Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections. Grace Kaprelian referred to page 2.c., where there had been a request to list the names of the clergy receiving stipends and their positions in the Annual Report. She stated that in the 1991 Annual Report, the clergy stipends were listed under one sum and that parishioners have asked that they be listed separately. The Chairman noted that this issue was going to be addressed later in the report, but since it had been brought up now, he asked the Treasurer of the Parish Council, Phyllis Martins, to give the breakdowns. Referring to page 5d, Clergy Stipends, total sum of \$85,416.20, the breakdown of stipends for Rev. Fr. Mampe A. Kouzouian, Pastor, Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian, Pastor Emeritus, and Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Minassian, Choir Director, was given. It was noted that the Pastor's stipend includes a housing allowance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes as amplified. MOTION PASSED.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTIVE OFFICES

George W. Haroutunian, the Nominating Committee Chairman, now called upon the nominees for the elective offices as put forward by the Nominating Committee to come forward to be viewed by the Assembly.

Parish Council (Five to be elected)

Antranig Aghdamlian	Helen Krikorian
Ara Avakian	Michael Markarian
Robert Borzakian, Jr.	William H. Martin *
Zaven Giragosian	Phyllis Martins *
John Kefeyan *	Robert Takvorian *

Auditing Committee (Three to be elected)

Dale Haroutunian	Peter Talanian *
Barbara L. Sahagian	Gregory Tashjian
MaryAnn Soursourian *	Araxie Toomajian

Nominating Committee (Five to be elected)

Jack Bichajian, Jr.	Eugene Raphaelian
Arthur Boghosian	Julia Stephanian
George W. Haroutunian *	Debra Stevens
Gregory Hintlian *	Aetna Tashjian *
Gerard Odabashian	Richard Zeytoonjian

Diocesan Delegates (Seven to be elected)

Gerald Ajemian	Gregory Krikorian
Gerald Boghosian	Robert P. Proodian *
Daniel K. Dorian *	John Soursourian *
George D. Hagopian *	Thomas Stephanian
George W. Haroutunian *	Charles Talanian
Aram Hintlian, Jr.	Aetna Tashjian *
James Kalustian	Robert Zartarian

Albert Zouranjian

* Incumbent

For Parish Council, it was noted that Robert Borzakian, Jr., instructed the Assembly that should he win, he will not be able to serve his term. Asking for nominations from the floor in all categories, James Kalustian was nominated for the Parish Council, and the nomination was seconded. He declined the nomination. Motions were made and seconded to close nominations in all categories. MOTIONS APPROVED. It was noted that for Diocesan Delegates, James Kalustian, was not listed on the sample ballot that was mailed out to members. However, his name did appear on the day's ballot.

It was stated as a point of information, that in the race for Auditing Committee, as directed by the Diocese and the Catholicos, the first of the three people elected to this Office will serve a term of three years; the second, two years; and the third, one year.

CORRECTIONS TO ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman noted the following corrections that should be made to the Annual Report:

- Page 5a, under Hall Gifts - General, the Actual Column should read: "\$7,970.00" instead of "\$8,370.00", and under Special Gifts, the Actual Column should read "\$3,955.00" instead of "\$3,550.00". Four hundred dollars in rental security deposits was inadvertently moved from Special Gifts to Hall Gifts.

- Page 5h, Cash on Hand should read "December 31, 1991".

- Page B1, under Women's Guild Executive Committee, Advisors, add "Margaret Atamian".

Following an interval at 2:00 p.m., for voting purposes, the Annual Assembly was again called to order by the Chairman at 2:35 p.m., stating that the Ballot Box had officially closed at 2:30 p.m.

Pastor's Annual Report for 1991

The Pastor gave an overview of his report both in English and Armenian. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Pastor's Report. MOTION PASSED.

At this time, June Piranian, on behalf of Dorothea Piranian who was not present, asked if there was any answer to Ms. Piranian's request at the 1991 Assembly, included in the 1991 Minutes on page 2h, asking if it were not possible to stagger the Church Office hours from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., instead of from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Chairman of the Parish Council stated that the Parish Council, in reviewing this request, had decided that it was not necessary to stagger the hours of the staff, and that the Office will remain open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. He noted that we do have an answering machine and that the Pastor is available 24 hours a day.

Parish Council Activities Report for 1991

At this time, the Parish' Council Chairman addressed a past request that the position of Executive Director be reviewed in the future as to its need. He stated that in reading the Parish Council Report, one can see that our Executive Director, Nancy D. Kasarjian, has played a very vital role in bringing income into this Church. He commented that enough cannot be said about her capabilities, that she is a very dedicated and valuable employee, and that they intend to keep her as Executive Director. He also stated that the position of Executive Director is here to stay and that the duties of this position entail working under the Pastor and the Parish Council, overseeing the Church Office personnel and responsibility for the hiring and firing and needs of same, and the needs of the Church; a close-working relationship with our bookkeeper; the negotiation of leases, such as in the case of the addition of the (Fayerweather) School lease that was persistently pursued by our Executive Director, bringing in additional income of \$39,000.00 this year, and \$42,000.00 next year; the overseeing of the maintenance of our Church properties making sure everything is running smoothly and is kept clean; and public relations in regard to maintaining good relationships with our neighbors. The Parish Council Chairman stated that everything that had been asked of our Executive Director, has been done and done well. He also commented that all of Holy Trinity Church's employees are very dedicated and that they put in many more hours than those for which they are paid.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Parish Council Report as given.
MOTION PASSED.

Parish Council Financial Report for 1991

It was suggested that on page 5d, the terminology be clarified for "Miscellaneous Services Paid by Parishioners". The Treasurer stated that this represents monies received by our parishioners for deacon services, organist, and soloists that were paid to the deacons, organists, and soloists.

To foster calm and clear communication among all present, a suggestion was made by Aetna Tashjian, Diocesan Delegate, that the Parish Council and the Diocesan Delegates listen carefully to each question and that they should then determine which one among them is best suited to address the Assembly with the answer.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Parish Council Financial Report as presented. MOTION PASSED.

Trust Fund Report

The Treasurer of the Trust Fund, George D. Hagopian, gave an overview of his report commenting that in 1991, we had reached a milestone by surpassing the \$2,000,000.00 mark. He stated that in the 17 years the Trust Fund had been operating, it took 13 years to make the first million and four years to make the second. He said that the Trust Fund contributed \$130,000.00 to the Church which represented 26% of the Church's total income, compared to 22.2% in 1990 and 16.5% in 1989.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Trust Fund Report. MOTION PASSED.

Special Parish Assembly, December 1, 1991

The Chairman of the Assembly requested that the Parish Council Secretary, Cathy Minassian, read the minutes of the Special Parish Assembly that was held on December 1, 1991, regarding the status of the Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian. The minutes were then read. See Enclosure 1.

A request was made to add to the Minutes that a request had been made at the Special Assembly for a reading of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting that had discussed a change to Father Papken's status and that the Assembly was told that there were no minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the Special Parish Assembly held December 1, 1991, as corrected. MOTION PASSED.

At this time, Diran Zahigian read the report of the Committee that had met to resolve this issue. See Enclosure 2.

Discussion was held at this time, during which it was disclosed that a letter had been sent certified mail from Father Papken Maksoudian to the Chairman of the Parish Council, with copies sent to His Grace, Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate; the Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian, Vicar of New England; Rev. Fr. Mampre Kouzouian, Pastor; the Diocesan Delegates; and the members of the Parish Council. It should be noted that Diran Zahigian, member of the committee to meet with Father Papken, and Cathy Minassian, Parish Council Secretary, stated that they had not received a copy of Father Papken's letter. Dialogue ensued as to whether or not the letter should be read without the author's permission, since it was sent to an individual. It was the opinion of the Chairman of the Assembly that since the letter was sent to the Parish Council Chairman in his capacity as such, its contents, therefore, had relevance to the issue at hand. At this time, Margaret Atamian stated that she did have the author's permission to read the letter. With the advisory and recognition that not all would necessarily agree with some of the issues in contention within the letter, and that in this forum it should be neither appropriate nor helpful to argue the specifics of the letter, the Chairman of the Assembly read the letter in its entirety.

A motion was made for the Assembly to receive and approve the report of the Committee and approve the recommended lifetime pension to Father Papken. George Alexander asked for an Amendment that stated that the Holy Trinity

Armenian Church pay a lifetime pension which represents the sum and total compensation of \$1,500.00 a month for a total of \$18,000.00 a year to Father Papken Maksoudian. Amendment seconded. Chairman Tellalian called for an intermission at 4:45 p.m., for the purpose of voting by secret ballot. After the ballots had been tabulated, the Chairman notified the Assembly that there were irregularities in the voting. Ballots were distributed to 164 members and there were 166 ballots in the box. He had no other recourse, but to ask for a revote, indicating that this issue was of such importance that the irregularity was out of order. The Assembly took a break at 5:35 p.m. to revote. Results: 154 ballots were distributed, 153 ballots were cast and checked off. Yes - 69; No - 84. AMENDMENT NOT PASSED. A return was made to the original motion by Dan Dorian and seconded which stated that the Holy Trinity Church shall pay a lifetime pension which represents the sum and total compensation of \$1,000.00 a month for a total of \$12,000.00 per year to Father Papken Maksoudian. There was an intermission at 6:10 p.m., for the Assembly to vote. Results of the voting: 139 ballots were distributed; 138 were cast. Yes - 98; No - 39; Blank - 1. MOTION PASSED.

Jack Keverian stated that Father Papken, in his letter, had stated that he was resigning from the title of Pastor Emeritus and since that title was conferred on him, it was appropriate for the Assembly to entertain a motion to accept that resignation, accept it with regret, or not accept it. At this time, Mr. Keverian made a motion that stated: "Let the will of this Assembly of the Holy Trinity Church of Greater Boston be known that Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian is beloved by its members and the entire Church community; that his resignation is respectfully refused; that he is requested to withdraw his letter of January 12, 1992, and rejoin our Church Parish community as Pastor Emeritus with all of the love, respect and privileges this position entails". Motion seconded. Ayes had it by acclamation. MOTION PASSED.

At this time, the Chairman of the Assembly stated that he was charging the Tivan of the Parish Council and the Special Committee that was brought together before, to meet and pull together the language of a letter that would be on Church stationery informing Father Papken of the actions that were taken at this Assembly, the acceptance of all eight individuals pulling that letter together and the sending of that letter. Diran Zahigian, a member of the Special Committee, indicated that he would not be here, but would go along with the Committee.

Election Results

While waiting for the results of the first special ballot vote, the results of the general elections were given:

Parish Council:

John Kefeyan *	Phyllis Martins *	
Robert Takvorian *	Helen Krikorian	(208 Ballots cast)
William H. Martin *		

1st Alternate - Michael Markarian
2nd Alternate - Zaven Giragosian

Because of his concern over statistics showing a long-term trend of an almost 2-to-1 ratio of funerals to baptisms, Robert Goshgarian made a two-part motion: 1. To put forth a proposal for submission to 90th Diocesan Assembly in 1992, submitted by Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge, MA, proposing that the Diocesan Council or its designee analyze the growth or decrease in Church membership of the Diocese in recent years and report its findings along with a plan as to how growth may be encouraged, to the 91st Diocesan Assembly in 1993; and 2. That the Parish Council or its designee analyze the growth or decrease in Church membership of the Parish in recent years and report its findings along with a plan as to how growth may be encouraged, to the 1993 Parish Assembly. Motion seconded. After some discussion and concern as to how this project would be funded, the motion was put to a vote. MOTION PASSED. The author was asked to put his proposal in writing and submit it for forwarding to the Diocese.

Robert Goshgarian made a motion that we include in our Budget for the coming year, 1% of the budget for charities and outreach as the Parish chooses, with the following year to show an increase of 2%, and the third year 3%, at which point it would remain. Motion seconded. After a discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table the above motion. MOTION PASSED.

Richard Zeytoonjian put forth a recommendation for consideration by the Parish Council that a Church Advisory Board be set up for the purpose of advising the Parish Council, when called upon, pertaining to matters that may arise. He also suggested that the Parish Council members wear some sort of pin, bearing the following: Parish Council, their name, and the words "Welcome", and that this should be worn on Sundays and at all Church functions.

Proposed Budget for 1992

A motion was made that Father Papken Maksoudian's stipend be eliminated from the clergy stipend (minus one month) and that whatever he will be getting be listed in a new line item. Motion seconded. MOTION PASSED.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 1992 Budget as adjusted. MOTION PASSED.

The closing prayer was offered by Father Mampre, following his comments commending the Chairman of the Assembly, Donald Tellalian, for the excellent manner in which he conducted the Assembly. He also thanked the Secretary of the Day, Carol Krikorian, and the Parliamentarian, Mary Killilea. He expressed his thanks to the Chairman of the Parish Council, Albert Zouranjian, for his dedication and leadership, and extended his appreciation to all the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Auditing & Nominating Committees, and Diocesan Delegates. He also offered his congratulations to the newly-elected members of the Parish Council, Auditing & Nominating Committees, and Diocesan Delegates, wishing them all well.

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was declared adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Krikorian
Recording Secretary

2 Encls

1. Minutes of Special Parish Assembly, 12/1/91
2. Report of Committee formed at Special Parish Assembly