

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Friday, February 12, 1982

The meeting was called to order by the Parish Council Chairman, Arthur S. Mardigian, at 8:25 P.M. Mr. Mardigian announced that in accordance with Article 17 of the By-laws, the Assembly was in order. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor, offered the prayer of Invocation.

Mr. Mardigian cited Articles 43 and 22 of the By-laws indicating the Parish Priest is the Presiding Officer of this Assembly and each member is entitled to one vote, respectively. In the case of a tie, the Presiding Officer shall cast the deciding vote. He stated that the Chairman to be elected will conduct the Assembly in an orderly and business-like fashion and will refrain from answering on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council will answer all questions. The meeting will be conducted in English, however, questions may be asked in Armenian and will be answered in Armenian.

Mr. Mardigian then asked the Nominating Committee to present their candidates.

Mr. Richard Vahratian, Chairman of the 1981 Nominating Committee, named the Committee members: Richard Norsigian, Dr. Dennis Papazian, Albert Sarkisian, Carl Varadian, and Richard Vahratian.

He then thanked those parishioners who provided assistance during the past months. He also expressed appreciation to Helen Armoudlian and Rose Boudakian for their secretarial assistance, Arthur Barsamian for his photography assistance, Gloria Mikaelian and the Torch Bearer Staff, Charlotte Boshnakian for the pictorial display, Nina Sarkisian for her Committee for the January 31 Tea, the parishioners who donated goods for the Tea, Edward Haic Korkoian, previous Nominating Committee Chairman for his assistance, and parishioners who will serve as Ballot Monitors and Counters today.

He indicated we would be voting for 14 positions:

- 1 Parish Assembly Chairman
- 1 Parish Assembly Secretary
- 6 Parish Council Members
- 5 Nominating Committee Members
- 1 Auditor

The Committee presented 27 candidates for the 14 available positions. Mr. Vahratian then called on Mr. Richard Norsigian to review the election rules and procedures.

Mr. Norsigian reviewed the voting procedure and introduced candidates by name only. He then presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary:

Assembly Chairman

Jack Kazanjian  
Emma B. Minasian

Assembly Secretary

Judy Hovnan  
Margie Simonian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close these nominations. By a show of hands the Assembly closed the nominations.

Assembly proceeded to vote.

Mr. Norsigian presented the candidates for Parish Council; six to be elected:

Walter Akkashian	Michael M. Kaysserian
Ardvart (Art) Ekizian	Herman Y. Misirliyan
Ron Godoshian	Victoria Reizian
Simon Javizian	Armen Safilian
John Kalajian	Kazar P. Terterian
Adam S. Karibian	Isabelle Vahratian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. Mr. Nerses Serkaian nominated Mr. Homer Lafian, from the floor, as a candidate for Parish Council, and inumerated Mr. Lafian's involvement and accomplishments. The nomination was seconded. Mr. Lafian accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations it was moved and seconded that nominations for Parish Council be closed. By a show of hands the Assembly closed the nominations. It was announced that a new ballot would be prepared to incorporate the nomination from the floor.

Mr. Norsigian presented the candiates for the Nominating Committee; five to be elected:

Howard Atesian	Edward Karamanian
Arthur Barsamian	Jacqueline Melkonian
Violet Cholakian	John Noraian
Stephen A. Dakhlian	Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian
Edward S. Jamian	Charles Stamboulian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close the Nominating Committee nominations. By a show of hands the Assembly closed the nominations.

Mr. Norsigian presented the candidate for Auditing Committee: Albert Mardirosian. Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to vote Mr. Albert Mardirosian as Auditor by acclamation. By a show of hands the Assembly voted Mr. Albert Mardirosian as Auditor by acclamation.

Slight delay here to prepare the new ballot.

At 9:29 p.m., Mr. Arthur Mardigian announced the results of the election of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary:

Chairman	- Mr. Jack Kazanjian
Secretary	- Ms. Margie Simonian

Mr. Kazanjian thanked Emma Minasian and Judy Hovnan for being good candidates. Mr. Kazanjian also welcome@d Fr. Arnak Kasparian to Detroit.

The Chair asked for the approval of the 1981 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes. A motion was made and seconded to do so. Discussion called for, voted upon and passed.

The chair opened the floor to any questions concerning the 1981 Annual Report. It was moved and seconded that the 1981 Annual Report be accepted. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Mr. Ashod Torosian presented the 1982 Budget beginning with the Balance Sheet.

A Motion was made that:

Hereafter the gross income be presented in addition to the net profit on the Bazaar, Picnic and New Year's Eve. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion passed.

Mr. Torosian then indicated we are showing a balanced budget this year. He then explained the Diocesan Clergy Assessment for the benefit of the parishioners.

It was moved:

To include in the budget between \$16,000 and \$18,000 for a Finance Director or Office Manager who could handle accounting, payroll taxes, sales tax, etc. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Defeated.

Mr. Mardigian commended the Auditing Committee on the outstanding job they did this year. The Auditing Committee has requested of Parish Council to have a meeting on ways and means to improve our system. The Parish Council has formed a committee for this meeting.

General discussion took place whereby parishioners asked for explanation of specific items in the budget pertaining to service awards, advertising, office salaries and Activities Director.

It was moved:

To accept the 1982 Budget as presented.  
It was seconded and voted on. Motion Passed.

At 10:00 p.m. it was announced that voting was closed.

Mr. Richard Apkarian reported on the Neighborhood Development Program. He reported additional funds are needed to continue the program effectively. Thus far we have 8 outstanding loans and 1 home purchased.

It was moved:

That \$100,000.00 be appropriated for the Neighborhood Development Program. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Passed.

Mrs. Victoria Reizian reviewed the minimum pledge for limited income Senior Citizens and students. St. John's Church is assessed \$45 a year by the Diocese for each pledged member. In addition, out-of-pocket costs create an additional \$15 totaling \$60 for each member. In light of this, Parish Council recommended the minimum limited income pledge be increased from \$15 to \$25 for these specific parishioners. There was lengthy discussion.

It was moved that:

Rather than have a fixed minimum of \$25 have the minimum pledge range from \$15 to \$25. Motion was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Defeated.

It was moved that:

The minimum church pledge for limited income senior citizens and students be increased from the present \$15 by \$10 to a minimum pledge of \$25. Motion was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Passed.

Mr. Mardigian read a letter relative to all amendments and proposals to be mailed to the Diocese by February 20, 1982. He stated that the Parish Council has no by-laws amendments or proposals to make at this time. Mr. Kazanjian asked for any amendments or proposals. There were none.

#### New Business

It was moved that:

The price of the Senior Citizen's Luncheon be increased to \$2 instead of \$1. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Defeated.

It was moved that:

The Parish Council be directed to present a budget and a financial report reporting the Church operation separate, the Hall operation separate and the New Complex separate. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Passed.

Mr. Martin Cholakian presented two proposals in the form of motions, one at a time. They are as follows:

Move that:

All Church School Graduates be given paid membership status with all rights and privileges during, and for only the calendar year in which they reach their 18th birthday. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Passed.

Move that:

All couples receiving the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in St. John's Armenian Church be given paid membership with all rights and privileges during, and for only the calendar year in which the couple is married. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Defeated.

On the issue of Senior Citizens unable to attend Church, it was moved that:

The Parish Assembly direct Parish Council to research into this situation and see if they can come up with some solutions that might bring these people to Church. It was seconded, discussed and voted on. Motion Passed.

Mr. Nerses Serkaian asked what is actively being done with the Senior Citizen's Housing Complex.

Mr. Arthur Mardigian read the report on Page 14 of the Annual Report in answer to Mr. Serkaian's question.

Mr. Ara Haig recommended the new Parish Council find three people with legal background to look into the legal aspects of writing our own local by-laws as far as our voting procedure is concerned to eliminate plunket vote system. He understands it is now legal to have our own voting system.

Mr. Jack Karakashian questioned who designates time allotments, scheduling of activities, etc., for the new gym.

Mr. Art Mardigian stated it is the responsibility of the Parish Council, indicating schedules will rarely change, only when there is an unusual circumstance.

The Chair announced the election results were in. Mr. Kazanjian read the results in alphabetical order.

Parish Council

Ardvart (Art) Ekizian  
Ron Godoshian  
Simon Javizian  
John Kalajian  
Homer Lafian  
Victoria Reizian

Nominating Committee

Howard P. Atesian  
Violet Cholakian  
Edward S. Jamian  
Jacqueline Melkonian  
Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian

Auditor

Albert Mardirosian

At this time it was read in the minutes that a total of 364 people had voted.

The Chair invited Father Paren Avedikian to give his closing message followed by the Benediction.

Father Paren thanked all candidates who, when asked, ran for the various positions. He hoped that those who were not elected would not be discouraged to run again in the future.

He expressed his thanks to the following individuals for services rendered to St. John's Church as Parish Council members who were now stepping down from their responsibilities.

\* Richard Apkarian  
Served 7 years, 2 years as Chairman

\* Helen Bagdasarian  
Served 4 years

\* Andrew Tarpinian  
Served 2 years

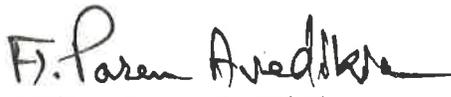
He also expressed gratitude to Mr. John Bahadurian, Auditor for 2 consecutive terms recently.

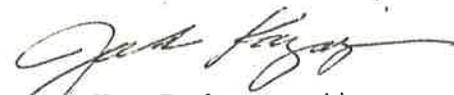
Father Paren also thanked Mr. Jack Kazanjian and Ms. Margie Simonian, Assembly Chairman and Secretary respectively.

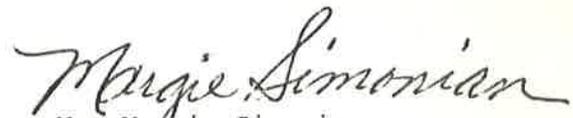
He welcomed and congratulated the members elected to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee and wished them well in their future endeavors.

He welcomed Father Arnak Kasparian, former Pastor, who is visiting for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our Church. He then thanked the parishioners for their patience and contribution during the meeting.

Father Paren offered the Benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

  
Father Paren Avedikian  
President

  
Mr. Jack Kazanjian  
Chairman

  
Ms. Margie Simonian  
Secretary