

MINUTES OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Friday, February 8, 1980

The invocation was given by The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian at 8:20 P.M.

Mr. Richard Apkarian, Chairman of the Parish Council opened the meeting and cited Article 17 of the Bylaws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and stated the requirements for a quorum were met and that the Parish Assembly was legal and in order.

Mr. Jack Kazanjian of the Nominating Committee was called upon to present the candidates for the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly. Mr. Kazanjian first expressed thanks to the following groups: the Nominating Committee for the fine job during the past months; the parishioners who chaired the February 3, 1980 Tea; the parishioners who donated items for the Tea; the parishioners acting as ballot monitors and ballot counters during the Assembly.

Mr. Kazanjian presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary.

Assembly Chairman

Martin Cholakian
Vahe Papelian

Assembly Secretary

Judy Hovnan
Joyce Karamanian

Mr. Kazanjian opened the floor for additional nominations for Assembly Chairman. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Chairman. The motion passed. Mr. Kazanjian opened the floor for additional nominations for Assembly Secretary, There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Secretary. The motion was passed.

As ballots were to be counted by a computer, Mr. Kazanjian explained the proper procedure for marking the new ballots. Ballots for Assembly Chairman and Secretary were distributed to the eligible parishioners and collected.

Mr. Kazanjian next presented the candidates for Parish Council, six of whom were to be elected:

Richard Apkarian
Edmond Azadian
Helen Bagdasarian
Ronald Godoshian
Simon Javizian
Edward Karamanian

Mihran Kupelian
Edward Mardigian, Jr.
Harry Mikaelian
John Ohanian
Victoria Reizian
Andrew Tarpinian

Mr. Kazanjian opened the floor for additional nominations for Parish Council. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Parish Council. The motion was passed.

Mr. Kazanjian next presented the candidates for Nominating Committee for 1980, five to be elected:

Mary Egigian	Lucy Merzian
George Elian	Emma Minasian
Shakey Godoshian	John Semizian
Edward Haic Korkoian	Archie Yeghissian
Elizabeth Mamassian	Harry Zartarian

Mr. Kazanjian opened the floor for additional nominations for Nominating Committee. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Nominating Committee. The motion was passed.

Mr. Kazanjian presented the candidate for Auditing Committee for a three year term (1980-1982) one to be elected:

George Arevigian

Mr. Kazanjian opened the floor for additional nominations for Auditor. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Auditor. Mr. Arevigian was elected by acclamation of the Assembly.

Ballots for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditor were distributed to all eligible parishioners and collected.

The results of the first ballots were announced by Mr. Kazanjian. Mr. Martin Cholakian was elected Assembly Chairman, and Mrs. Joyce Karamanian was elected Assembly Secretary.

Mr. Cholakian and Mrs. Karamanian took their respective positions at the dais and assumed office.

The chair expressed appreciation to the parishioners for the confidence placed in Mrs. Karamanian and himself.

The chair asked for unanimous consent to have Mr. Papelian and Miss Hovnan assume the positions of Assistant Chairman and Assistant Secretary respectively. There being no objection the chair so ordered.

The chair stated the rules for the conduct of the business of the Assembly. The chair further stated he represents the parishioners and therefore would give the opportunity for everyone to be heard. The chair stated all questions would be answered by the appropriate member of the Parish Council, and not by the chair. The chair stated all questions and inquiries should be directed to the chair.

The chair cited Article 43 of the Diocesan Bylaws stating the Parish Priest is the presiding officer of the Parish Assembly; therefore, Father Paren would preside over this Assembly.

The chair stated the next order of business was the approval of the minutes of the 1979 Parish Assembly. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes of the 1979 Parish Assembly as presented. As there was no discussion, the chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

The chair stated the next order of business is the consideration of the Annual Report excluding the following items; the Balance Sheet, the Operating Fund and the Budget for 1980. The chair called for questions.

Mr. Martin Apkarian asked if the Artifacts mentioned on page 15 could be described to the Assembly. The Pastor stated that the descriptions would be

published in the next Annual Report. Mr. Martin Apkarian accepted the answer.

There being no further discussion on the portions of the Annual Report before the Assembly for consideration, a motion was made and seconded to adopt them as presented. The Chair called for a vote and the motion passed.

The Chair stated the next order of business would be the Financial Balance Sheet and the Operating Fund shown on Pages 29, 30, 31, 32 & 33 of the Annual Report. The Chair was advised that Mr. Souren Keoleian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, would take a position at the second podium and microphone provided on the dais and answer questions from the Assembly. The Chair reiterated all questions should be directed to the Chair.

Mr. Vahe Papelian asked about an error in the Bingo Report. According to the records of the Bingo Committee, the correct amount earned and turned in to the Parish Council should be \$62,500. Mr. Richard Simonian, an auditor, was called upon to respond. Mr. Simonian indicated the amount in the actual column is a net figure, and there could be a timing difference. Mr. Simonian assured Mr. Papelian that the correct amount of funds have been transferred to the Parish Council and the figures can be verified.

Mr. M. Manoogian asked for an explanation of the special 1978 pledge increase when monies were to be set aside in a separate fund for future needs, and why it was not shown for 1979. Mr. Keoleian responded that upon review of the 1978 Parish Assembly minutes, the Parish Council determined it was applicable for 1978 only. Mr. Manoogian stated he made the motion during the 1978 Parish Assembly, and he did not intend nor interpret it to be for one year only. Mr. Simonian was asked to respond again. Mr. Simonian said that monies have been segregated and shown on the Balance Sheet and the \$10,000 would appear in any of the savings accounts.

Mr. H. Aginian inquired why in the operating fund are net figures shown for the Bazaar, the Picnic and New Year's Eve, which are functions that are sponsored by the Church, rather than gross receipts less the expenses. Mr. Keoleian responded that in order to provide a quick answer for the people, they provide a net number.

Mr. H. Zartarian questioned the market value on the vacant land located in Sterling Heights, and also the validity of keeping it on the books for seventeen years. The Chair requested that Mr. Zartarian withhold his question until we get to Item 8 on the agenda. Mr. Zartarian consented to the Chair's request.

Mr. H. Terzian asked for several explanations on the Receipts and Expenditures: (1.) Under Contributions, we had budgeted \$3,000 in 1979. In 1978 we had spent \$2,142, and this year we spent \$5,037. He inquired where we made some additional contributions. Mr. Keoleian explained that we spent \$3,000 in 1979 on the Lebanon Relief Fund as a result of St. John's pledge. (2.) Under the Building Repair and Maintenance, Mr. Terzian questioned the \$15,772 spent for building repairs and maintenance. Mr. Keoleian responded that almost \$6,000 was spent for the parking lot lights and the lights on top of the Church. Extensive repairs to the heating ventilation and air conditioning systems, caused a breakdown in the compressors at a cost of \$14,000 of which \$11,000 was recovered by the insurance company. Mr. Terzian also inquired about the monies allotted for in the reserve for building maintenance and the fact that those monies are not reduced in the reserve, but expenditures are

taken out of the operating budget to cover expenses. Mr. Keoleian explained that item is for major repairs such as the repaving of the parking lot. The Parish Council feels that anything less than \$10,000 should be an expense and not a capital item netted against building maintenance reserves.

Mr. M. Carman questioned the necessity of repairing and replacing the lights on the dome. Mr. Keoleian stated the deterioration of the lights in the last fifteen years necessitated the change of the fixtures.

Mr. M. Manoogian asked what the minimum dues amounts were in 1977, 1978 and 1979. Mr. Keoleian stated that in 1977 the minimum dues were \$65.00; in 1978 the dues were \$78.00 and in 1979, \$78.00.

Mr. E. Sarkissian asked whether a pledge was given in 1979 to the Istanbul Patriarchate. Mr. Keoleian responded that a \$1,000 pledge was made as noted in the Actual Column for 1979.

Mr. J. Negohosian asked if the Building Operations net figure listed under Receipts and Expenditures included all of the buildings or did it separate the Hall from the Church; and if so is there a means to secure the cost of the building operations without the Church and the revenue and come up with a net figure. Mr. Keoleian responded that the figure represents the entire St. John's complex, excluding the Church. He further referred Mr. Negohosian to the detailed breakdown of the Operating Fund - Building Operation listed in the 1979 Annual Report.

Mr. S. Javizian inquired about the Athletics and Youth Director budget of \$10,000 when Actual 1979 was only \$3,025 and why in the 1980 budget only \$5,000 was allocated. Mr. Keoleian responded that because a Youth Director was not hired during 1979, it reflected a lesser amount spent. As for the 1980 budget, concern as to the readiness of the Veterans' Building during our expansion program lead the Council to take a more conservative direction regarding the hiring of a Youth Director. Mr. Javizian further questioned the importance of the physical structure over the importance of hiring a Youth Director to guide them. Mr. Richard Apkarian, Chairman of the Parish Council, explained that the Parish Council has not formulated a committee due to the uncertainty of the facility at this date, but by the end of 1980 a Youth Director would be hired. Mr. Javizian expressed his confidence in the commitment of the Parish Council to expedite the program.

Mr. A. Artinian inquired about the Church expansion contributions for 1979 consisting of \$72,000 from Church Auxiliaries and \$28,000 from the Parish Council. Mr. Keoleian responded that the commitment for the building expansion for 1979 was \$100,000. The total Church Auxiliaries' contributions for 1978 and 1979 accounted for the \$72,000. The Parish Council withdrew from a savings account the remaining \$28,000 to fulfill the Parish's 1979 commitment towards the building expansion. A like amount of \$100,000 has been pledged for 1980.

Mr. M. Apkarian questioned why the \$100,000 came from the Operating Fund of 1979 and not the reserve fund. Mr. Keoleian stated that the \$72,000 represents all the Auxiliary contributions for 1978 and 1979; \$28,000 represents a figure from the reserve of accounts in 1979.

Mr. Robert Simonian inquired as to who the people are, who are on the youth committee at this time. He also expressed a desire that the next Parish Council

should consider those parishioners who currently are responsible for the existing programs to serve on the committee.

Mr. J. Margosian asked that in the future in the Operating Fund columns the line items should be numbered for easier reference.

There being no further questions, Mr. Keoleian presented a detailed explanation of the Operating Fund, Receipts and Disbursements, an analysis of the actual revenue for 1979, versus the approved 1979 budget. He stated the total revenue for 1979 was \$495,185, the total budget was \$440,167 thereby beating the actual budget by \$55,018, doing a better job in 1979 than expected. The principal items that contributed to the increase in revenue over budget was the work done by the Building Operations Committee. The Building Operations Committee increased the revenue over the 1979 budget by \$35,000. Interest income was budgeted in 1979 at \$20,000, but actual was almost \$30,000 or 50% over budget. The 1980 budget shows interest income at \$34,000 versus \$20,000 in 1979, an increase of \$14,000, which the Parish Council hopes to accomplish by sound investments. In addition, there were revenues of \$11,000 from Church auxiliaries, New Year's Eve and the sale of a residence. The aforementioned five revenue items increase over budget was \$63,000. On the disbursement side, the 1979 budget versus the 1979 actual, in reference to Mr. Artinian's question, we had actual expenditures of \$498,641 against a budget of \$440,167 or a budget overrun unfavorable of \$58,474. As noted previously, this was attributable to the \$100,000 pledged and disbursed to the Apostolic Society for the Church expansion project. If we had not had that commitment, or fulfilled that obligation, we would have been some \$50,000 favorable to the budget. Mr. Keoleian further explained that this came about by various factors that he would outline. First by reviewing the actual versus the budget for 1979, as noted in the Annual Report, we did not hire a Building Operations Manager which saved us \$25,000. There were no additional Clergy during 1979, which provided us favorably with \$25,000. As a result of assuming the liability for the Veteran's Building we had some \$11,000 in additional salaries. This was offset by favorable Athletic and Youth Director of \$7,000. We also had an offset to that figure because of building repairs to the parking lot and dome lighting system. The aforementioned items total \$55,000 of the unfavorable that was noted earlier. Mr. Keoleian concluded by saying that had we not fulfilled our commitment of \$100,000 to the Apostolic Society for the building expansion, we would have had \$50,000 favorable to the published \$440,167 budget the Parish Assembly approved last year.

There being no further discussion on the Operating Fund, on the Receipts and Disbursement side, Mr. Keoleian presented the 1980 budget for the approval of the Parish Assembly.

Mr. Keoleian stated that for 1980, the Parish Council prepared a balanced budget of \$490,947 for revenue and \$490,947 for expenditures. The revenue increase is \$50,780 over the budgeted amount of \$440,167 for 1979. This reflects an 11.5% increase over the budgeted amount for 1979. The budgeted increases from 1979 to 1980 are a result of an increase in pledges from \$125,000 to \$130,000, special events from \$3,000 to \$38,000, building operations from \$125,000 to \$130,000, interest income from 20,000 to 34,000. These aforementioned four items total \$59,000 of the budgeted increase in revenue from 1979 to 1980. We budgeted a decrease of \$3,000 in the Bazaar and a decrease of \$10,000 in the Bingo program netting the increased budgeted revenues minus decreases you arrive at a figure of \$50,000, or a budgeted revenue increase of \$50,000 from 1979 to 1980. The Parish Council agreed on a balanced budget for 1980, the expenditures increased some \$50,780 over the budgeted figures of \$440,167 for 1979. The increases of budgeted expenditures from 1979 to 1980 are because of the expected increases of

salaries both office and building and maintenance due to the expansion project, capital improvements of \$17,000, heat and light of \$11,000, Diocesan assessments of \$4,000. The total of these budgeted expenditures are \$58,000. Offsetting that figure there is a budgeted decrease of \$5,000 in Athletics and Youth Director, therefore accommodating a balanced budget by having an increase of \$50,000 over 1979 versus 1980. This represents an increase of approximately 11%, which is reasonable in view of the inflation rate of 15%.

Following Mr. Keoleian's presentation, questions were entertained from the Assembly on the proposed budget for 1980.

Mr. A. Artinian questioned the elimination of \$100,000 under Church expansion contributions. He wanted to know if we have eliminated the \$100,000 from 1980's budget. Mr. Keoleian responded the Parish Council had.

Mr. Javizian asked why we are budgeting \$10,000 for auto expenses. Mr. Keoleian explained that it was segregated and considered an equipment purchase instead of an expense.

Mr. G. Reizian questioned the \$5,000 decrease in the Youth Budget over 1979's figure of \$10,000. Mr. Keoleian responded the uncertainty of the facilities left the Parish Council conservative in the matter of hiring a Youth Director. When a committee is formed to address itself to issues related to the Youth Program, the Parish Council would hire a Youth Director. Thus the Parish Council has kept the budget within an inflationary level of 11% because when the Director is hired there will be a budget overrun in that area. The uncertainty of the Youth Director however, prompted the Parish Council not to budget for it. Mr. Reizian made a motion that the budget for Athletics and Youth Director of 1980 be restored to the 1979 level of \$10,000 and a Youth Director be hired in 90 days. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion on the motion. Mr. R. Baylerian questioned why no time limit could be put on the Youth issue. Mr. Robert Simonian commented that not one Parish Council member had made an attempt to see how the youth program was being run or to offer support. Mr. Simonian felt that certain people were being taken for granted to run the athletic programs. Mr. R. Apkarian responded that the Parish Council has devoted considerable time to the youth of this Church. Members of this Assembly have been approached to serve as volunteers on a youth committee to decide what the policies should be. Mr. Apkarian stressed the importance of the right people serving on the committee. He also stated that we would have a youth program for 1980 and also a Youth Director. Mr. J. Karakashian made a comment that the need for a 90 day time limit is very important to the youth of our Church, and he felt further delay would hurt the youth program. Mr. H. Aginian suggested we take \$5,000 from the \$25,000 allocated for 10 years in the budget for Building Operations Manager and put the money into the youth program thereby balancing the budget. Mr. J. Negosian asked that a 90 day clause not be put into the motion. He felt that perhaps the right person could not be found in that length of time. Mr. J. Margosian agreed with Mr. H. Aginian, that by changing the budget by deducting \$5,000 from the Building Operations Manager who is yet unhired would balance the budget. Mr. R. Apkarian responded by saying that we are actively seeking a Building Operations Manager and advertisements will be published shortly soliciting for a Building Operations Manager. That is a priority item at this time. Mr. Apkarian also stated that the Parish Council working in conjunction with the Apostolic Society, which has pledged \$500,000 to be spent on the Veteran's Building for our youth. He further stated that \$5,000 would not hire a Youth Director, and the monies that were budgeted were to implement certain programs. He anticipates a figure of \$20,000 to \$25,000 to hire an adequate Youth Director, and that figure will be reflected in 1981 budget. Mr. A. Yeghissian stated that although the \$5,000 would not hire a Youth Director, it

would certainly help keep the youth here at the Church. Mr. G. Reizian asked whether the 90 day time limit stands with the motion. It was agreed the time limit does not stand with the motion. The Chairman restated the motion, that being, "To increase the line item of Athletics and Youth Director from \$5,000 in the budgeted 1980 figure to \$10,000". Motion was seconded and passed and the line item increased to \$10,000.

Mr. H. Terzian questioned the significant increase in the Capital Improvements over the 1979 budget. Mr. Keoleian responded that the figure reflects a \$14,000 anticipated expenditure for the portico area renovation. A firm commitment has been made with a firm to proceed with the renovation.

Mr. Terzian also questioned where \$100,000 for the building expansion is budgeted in 1980. Mr. Keoleian reiterated that the \$100,000 was not budgeted and we will realize that amount through special fund raising and investments, and therefore do not feel it should be a budgeted item.

Mr. V. Papelian proposed we raise the dues by \$2.00 per week and asked for a motion to the effect. The Chair requested that Mr. Papelian bring the motion under new business.

Mr. A. Mardigian asked why the portico improvements were not taken out of the building maintenance instead of being itemed under Capital Improvements. Mr. Keoleian responded that it was not considered a major building maintenance item.

Mr. H. Zartarian asked where the \$38,000 budgeted under Special Events is to come from in 1980. Miss Helen Bagdasarian responded that a committee is in existence at the moment, and will raise the money through various fund-raising events.

Mr. Zartarian asked why \$100,000 wasn't budgeted in 1980 as it was in 1979 under Church contributions. Mr. Keoleian responded by saying that the Council hopes to fulfill the same commitment as 1979, however, it is not entirely definite, therefore not budgeted.

Mr. P. Bazigian asked whether we would recover some monies for utility bills incurred by the A.G.B.U. School. Mr. Keoleian responded that the Council hopes to recover some of the money and therefore that was the reason for the relatively low budget figure for 1980.

Mr. S. Javizian questioned the renovation of the portico being under Capital Improvement and not under the expansion program. Mr. Keoleian advised that it was not part of the planned building expansion and is a separate item. The repair is needed immediately.

Mr. Javizian questioned the rise in the cost of the Torch Bearer. Mr. Keoleian contended that the cost of raw paper has increased 25%. In addition, the cost of labor and postage has increased. Ms. M. Cholmakjian stated the Torch Bearer's costs were excessive and the news was repetitive and outdated; furthermore, she felt the size of the paper could be reduced. Father Paren stated the Torch Bearer was a good publication and the items were timely and any reduction in cost would not allow us to publish the paper at all. Ms. Cholmakjian made a motion to amend the proposed budget for 1980 of \$9,600 to \$6,000 for the publication of the Torch Bearer. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion. Mr. N. Gedigian stated as a printer, the price we pay to publish the Torch Bearer was very

reasonable. Mr. G. Elian further stated that he also feels the price is reasonable, and far below the market value for printing such a publication. Mrs. Z. Atesian suggested that perhaps we could get more advertising. Mr. Keoleian replied that they are already looking into the possibility of more advertisements. Mrs. L. Hovsepien questioned whether non-dues paying members receive the Torch Bearer. Father Paren responded that due to the decision of a past Parish Assembly, all people on our mailing list receive the Torch Bearer as well as all other publications. Mr. H. Terzian commented that perhaps some sporting events' scores are untimely, but the educational information contained in the Torch Bearer is valuable and other news concerning the Diocese is important to our parishioners. Miss M. Hovsepien stated that we could limit the number of Torch Bearers that are sent to one home. Mr. Keoleian stated that each dues paying member of the Parish is entitled to receive all publications of the Church. The Chair repeated the motion on the floor, "To reduce the expenditure of the Torch Bearer from \$9,600 to \$6,000." The motion was defeated.

Mr. J. Karakashian questioned whether the A.G.B.U. pays anything to the Church for the use of the Veteran's Building and Cultural Hall. Mr. R. Apkarian explained that we have a reciprocal arrangement with the A.G.B.U. They use our facility and we use theirs every Sunday for Church School. Mr. Karakashian further questioned if they receive the free rental of the Cultural Hall and the use of the gym. Mr. Apkarian stated that the A.G.B.U. pays for the expenses. Mr. Armen Hovnanian, Chairman of the Building Committee, stated we have a contract agreement with the A.G.B.U. that allows them a certain number of free days usage of the hall, and we have usage of the school for our needs. If they exceed the free days, then they pay the usual Armenian rate.

Mr. A. Mardigian wanted a breakdown of the number of days the A.G.B.U. uses our facilities and the breakdown of the number of days the Church uses their facility. Mr. Hovnanian stated that the A.G.B.U. receives five free weekend days and twenty-nine weekdays for meeting and practice sessions. Anything over and above that figure they pay for. Mr. Mardigian further stated that he felt the other organizations of the Church were not being given the same consideration for usage of the facilities even though they contribute yearly dues to the operations of the Church to enable it to have a balanced budget. Mr. Mardigian made a motion to remove \$6,500 on the revenue side from rentals under Church Organizations. The motion was seconded. Mr. Mardigian asked for a clarification of the \$6,500. Mr. Hovnanian replied that \$2,000 from the Women's Guild, \$2,000 from the Ladies' Auxiliary, \$1,000 from the Men's Society, \$1,000 from the A.C.Y.O.A. and \$500 from meeting rentals. Mr. J. Bahadurian stated that as a member of the Men's Society, he was against the motion. The Chair restated the motion and called for a vote. The motion was defeated.

Mr. Richard Simonian made a motion to close the discussion on the budget. The Chair stated every parishoner was entitled to ask questions and then accept the amended budget.

Mr. G. Ohanian, the Treasurer of the A.G.B.U. School Board offered to give an explanation of A.G.B.U. School payments towards the expenses of the Veteran's Building. The Chair denied Mr. Ohanian the opportunity to speak.

Mr. E. Azadian questioned why Mr. Ohanian was not allowed to answer the questions concerning the A.G.B.U. since he is the Treasurer of the A.G.B.U. Alex Manoogian School. He stated that \$3,500 is paid annually, plus the entire electrical bill of the Veteran's Building. The Chair ruled Mr. Azadian out of

order, as there was no accounting from the A.G.B.U. School Treasurer required. Mr. M. Hoplamazian stated that the issue of the A.G.B.U. Building seems to have become very emotional and he further stated the importance of the A.G.B.U. School and what it is giving to our entire Church community. Mr. Hoplamazian stated that we are educating over 200 youngsters in the Armenian tradition and we are first Armenians and are working toward a common goal. There being no further questions concerning the budget under Receipts and Disbursements, the Chair asked the parishioners to note the \$5,000 increase, and increase the \$490,947 budget to read \$495,947. This is the amended budget to vote on. The budget was voted upon and accepted as amended.

Under the topic of consideration of the sale of the Church property in Sterling Heights, Mr. Edward Jamian explained that after careful research along with Mr. A. Torosian, the Parish Council decided to list the property with Real Estate One for \$60,000. Commissions will have to be paid, but he estimates that approximately \$50,000 could be realized from the sale of it. Mr. H. Aginian made a motion to sell the Sterling Heights property. Mr. Masa Carman seconded the motion. The Chair called for discussion on the motion. Mr. M. Manoogian questioned the possibility of a new plant that is to be built in Sterling Heights. Mr. Jamian replied that the property is zoned residential and if we can realize \$50,000, we will be very lucky. Mr. G. Javizian asked for the location of the property. Mr. Jamian responded that it was located west of Mound Road and south of M-59. Mr. S. Gozmanian asked what was to be done with the receipts of the sold property. Would it be used for capital improvement fund, building expansion or the operation budget? Mr. S. Keoleian stated that we would purchase a money market certificate at the current rate. Mrs. A. Prudian asked why we purchased the property in Sterling Heights. Mr. Jamian responded that it was donated to the Church as a gift. Mr. H. Asdourian asked what the taxes were on the property. It was stated that they were \$1,000 per year. Mr. H. Terzian recalled several years ago that the property was assessed at \$20,000 by a realtor and why does the Parish Council feel they should sell the property now. Mr. Jamian corrected him, stating the assessed figure was \$13,000 last year and this year. Mr. J. Bahadurian called for a close to the discussion on the property. The Chair called for a vote on the motion to sell the Sterling Heights property. The Chair advised the Assembly that this vote would require 2/3 affirmative as the Bylaws state. The motion was voted upon and carried.

The Chair moved to Item 9 on the agenda, New Business. Under the topic of new business, Mr. M. Megregian made a motion that the monies accrued by the sale and the investment of the Sterling Heights property be directed into the Athletic and Youth program. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion on the motion. Mr. R. Baylerian responded favorably to the motion. He stated that the program should be directed to the Youth Program and for Church activities for all those in the parish, also keeping in mind that the youth are foremost in the motion. The motion was changed to read the monies accrued by the sale and the investments of the Sterling Heights property be directed to the Youth Program. Mr. S. Javizian asked if there was any stipulation with the donation of that property. Mr. G. Yeghissian stated that whatever use the money is put into, in all fairness to the original donor, it should be a fund in that person's name. Mr. Yeghissian amended the motion by Mr. Megregian to read that the name of the donor be retained as the name of the fund. The motion was seconded. The Chair called for discussion on the amendment. Father Paren responded that the parishioners should bear in mind that endowments for specific purposes will tie up the freedom of the operations of future Parish Councils. He feels the suggestion that was made in recognition of the donor is a good suggestion, however, anything further than that will tie up the flexibility of the usage of

funds in the future. There being no further discussion, the Chair restated the amendment and the motion. The original motion by Mr. Megregian is that the proceeds from the sale of the Sterling Heights property be invested and proceeds from the investments be used for the Youth Program of St. John's Armenian Church. The amendment being that the name of the donor be retained as the name of the fund. Mr. Richard Simonian asked if we sell the property for \$50,000, were we going to permanently restrict the use of the \$50,000. He felt that it should not be tied into the sale of the property. He also stated that this would be a restricted fund forever, and could not be used for any other purpose. He further contended that it was a serious matter to segregate \$50,000 of the Church's money. Mr. A. Yeghissian responded that he has no disagreement with the motion or the amendment, he feels it makes no difference whether the monies come from the general fund or a specific fund established for that purpose. He further inquired about the name of the original donor and as he recalls there were no strings attached to the donation to the Church. The Chair advised Mr. Yeghissian that the name of the original donor was known. Mr. V. Papelian made a point of order of bringing up the sale of the Sterling Heights property on the agenda. Mr. Papelian stated that the Council sells stock and it has never been brought up before, why now. Father Paren responded that Article 17B of the Bylaws of the Diocese, by which we are governed, states that no Parish Council can sell any property without the 2/3 consent of the Assembly. Mr. H. Terzian, speaking against the amendment, stated that it was unclear whether we want to vote for the motion for tying up the funds and whether we establish a fund or not, will depend on whether we approve the motion. He feels we should decide if a fund is to be established for the youth and appropriately decide about naming the fund for the youth. He feels we should defeat the motion as it is and bring it up after some more clarification. Mr. M. Megregian stated that he is shocked at the disinterest in some of the parishioners for the youth of this Church, specifically since the money is not coming out of their pockets. Mr. D. Shahan said the Parish Council's main concern is the youth of our Church and we are doing everything we can in that regard. We should have a total commitment on the part of all parishioners to keep our youth here. We are working toward a goal of a Youth Center in the Veterans' Building for our youth and he is surprised to hear from some people that there is not interest in the Youth Program. The Chair closed discussion on the amendment and stated that we will vote on the amendment and then on the motion. The amendment is that the fund be named after the donor of the land. The Chair called for a vote and the amendment passed.

The motion by Mr. Megregian was amended to read, the receipts from the sale of the property in Sterling Heights be placed in a fund to be named after the donor of the land and the proceeds from the interest of that money be directed toward the youth program of St. John's Armenian Church. Mr. S. Gozmanian stated that he agreed with Mr. Richard Simonian that to tie up \$50,000 was not a wise financial transaction. He further stated that to vote against the motion is not a vote against the youth of our Church. They will still get their program and the Youth Center in the Veteran's Building. Mrs. N. Boyajian contends that if the youth program is operable, that it will draw the youngsters to the Church and they can become contributing members of our Church community. Mr. V. Papelian stated that we have not sold the property and this discussion should be postponed until we sell the property. Mr. H. Atesian asked for a point of clarification, he understood the motion to mean that the principal of the entire \$50,000 would not be tied up in a fund and the \$50,000 along with the interest was to be utilized for the youth program. The Chair asked for a clarification from Mr. Megregian. Mr. Megregian stated that he wanted the entire amount to be used for the youth program, that being the proceeds of the sale of the property in Sterling Heights is to be used for the youth

program in the name of the original donor. Father Paren questioned what will happen to the amendment we just made to the motion. The Assembly agreed that it would just dissipate in the next few years. Mr. H. Terzian commented that he feels the Parish Council is expected to spend money on the youth program and that they have the best interests of the youth in mind. The Chair asked for questions on the amended motion, there being no further questions, the Chair restated the motion so there would be no confusion on the motion. The proceeds from the sale of the property in Sterling Heights is to be used for the youth program at St. John's Armenian Church in the name of the original donor. The motion as amended carried. Mr. A. Apkarian inquired if we had two thirds of the Assembly for the vote. The Chair stated the motion to sell the property had two thirds majority and that was all that was necessary. Mr. S. Yavruian asked if it took a two thirds vote to sell the property and this motion did not, can we be sure the persons who have left the Assembly are in total agreement with the amendment that has been added to the motion. The Chair reiterated that it does not require a two thirds vote, that applies to the purchase and sale of property according to our Bylaws.

The Chair called for further new business. Mr. E. Azadian questioned the poor enrollment figure of the Armenian School, and he asked for the wisdom and help of the Assembly to remedy the situation. Mr. S. Javizian pointed out the fact that we have had declining enrollment in the Church School in the past several years. He suggests we should reevaluate our programs and their direction. Father Paren responded to the last statement by pointing out that perhaps registration in past years was higher, but the attendance was considerably lower than what we have at the present. He further stated that we offer an opportunity for every parishioner to bring their children to St. John's for a fine Christian education. We have a right to be proud of the more than 250 children who attend Church School on a very regular basis, and their parents are to be commended.

The Chair called for additional new business. Mrs. M. Derderian suggested we give a one year free membership in the Church to each student who graduates from Church School. She further contends that it would be a way of welcoming them to the Church family, and hopefully they would renew their membership the following years.

As there was no further new business, the Chair invited Mr. Daniel Shahan, the Chairman of the Building Project Committee, to explain the expansion program to the parishioners. He will welcome any questions concerning the project. Mr. Shahan stated the fund raising project is well under way and contractors have been contacted and discussions are under way to bring the dollars within our budget. They are working most diligently in this direction and at the moment it looks as though we will be able to accomplish our objective. Negotiations are under way with one contractor with whom we have a guaranteed maximum, which is in keeping with what our projections were. Not totally satisfied with that arrangement, we will continue our negotiations and will strive for yet a better contract. Hopefully in the next several weeks, we will have reached some agreement and the activity will begin. Mr. Shahan entertained questions from the Assembly.

Mr. Robert Simonian asked what kind of arrangement would be made for scheduling of the A.G.B.U. School athletic programs and the Youth Program of the Church. He feels with the growth of the A.G.B.U. School enrollment that perhaps they would require the facilities on a regular basis, therefore producing a conflict with the youth program. Mr. Shahan replied that it is the intention of the Council to allow the use of the facilities for all the youth of our Armenian community. He further stated that full consideration will be given to all. Mr. P. Bazigian asked what monies the A.G.B.U. will contribute toward

the building expansion program. Mr. Shahan stated that at this point no specific groups have been contacted individually. Some thought has been given to contact certain organizations however, the primary drive has been with individuals. When the time comes, Mr. Shahan stated that all organizations will be asked. He stressed that foremost we are one community whether we belong to this organization or that, we are Armenians first. Mr. E. Sarkissian asked where the museum will be located. Mr. Shahan replied that the museum will be an extension to the south side of the building. Mr. E. Azadian replied to the question concerning the possible conflict between the A.G.B.U. School and the Youth Program's usage of the gym. He stated that the school sponsored activities are usually concluded by 6:30 and therefore does not foresee any problem. Mr. Shahan further commented that we can not rule out the possibility of conflict. The school may in the future participate with non-Armenian schools and thereby the need for the facility for tournaments at night. Mr. E. Mardigian, Jr. asked whether or not the parishioners would have another opportunity to vote on the necessity of this expansion program. Mr. Shahan stated that once the decision has been made and money has been spent on that decision, hopefully the decision and the money spent has been made on good judgment. He further stated that it was the judgment of the entire body a year ago to proceed with the expansion program. It was also presented to a Special Assembly for a vote. Mr. H. Terzian asked that the discussion be closed and also to thank Mr. Shahan for the excellent effort he has put into the expansion program.

The Chair asked Mr. Jack Kazanjian to give the results of the election. Mr. Kazanjian thanked the nominating committee for the excellent job they did and commented on the speedy and accurate vote count by computer. He thanked Mr. Carl Varadian for bringing the computer. The election results were as follows:

Elected to the Parish Council in Alhabetic Order

Richard Apkarian
Helen Bagdasarian
Ronald Godoshian

Simon Javizian
Victoria Reizian
Andrew Tarpinian

Elected as Nominating Committee in Alhabetic Order

Mary Egigian
George Elian
Edward Haic Korkoian

Lucy Merzian
John Semizian

Elected as Auditing Committee Member

George Arevigian by acclamation

The Chair called on the Assembly to thank the nominating committee for the fine work they have done, Chairman Jack Kazanjian, Rose Hanesian, Margie Simonian, Guy Amboian and Richard Baylerian.

The Chair then proceeded to the next item on the agenda, that being the Pastor's closing message and benediction.

Father Paren announced that the number of ballots cast for Assembly Chairman and Secretary were 381, and the number of ballots cast for the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee were 395.

Father Paren expressed his appreciation to the Nominating Committee for their

efforts and also thanked Mr. Carl Varadian for bringing the computer to expedite the balloting.

Father Paren requested that parishioners refrain from parking on the Church lawn and to please refrain from congregating in the Church lobby during Church Services.

Father Paren thanked the Chairman and the Secretary for accepting the nominations and commended them for the excellent manner in which they conducted the Assembly. He thanked the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Mr. Edward Jamian, Mr. Armen Hovnanian, Mr. Art Barsamian and Mr. Richard Norsigian for their fine contributions to the Church. Father Paren also thanked all the persons who accepted the nominations to run for office and congratulated those individuals who were elected. He expressed his desire to those who were not elected, to consider running again.

Father Paren asked for the help of the parishioners to fulfill their pledge obligations for the building expansion and help to make Mr. Shahan's responsibility easier.

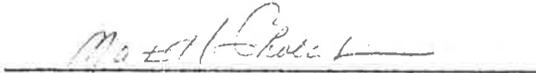
Father Paren announced that Trip-a-Month raffle tickets are available for the building fund raising. He also announced that tickets are available for the Vartanantz Celebration and Dinner sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary. Dr. Richard Wilkinson, visiting professor from England, is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Dinner. Dr. Wilkinson currently teaches Armenian History at the University of Michigan.

Father Paren also announced that the Primate has assigned Father Haic Donikian from Providence, Rhode Island as Assistant Pastor of St. John's. Fr. Haic will join St. John's Church family soon.

The Assembly was adjourned at 12:05 A.M. with the benediction offered by Father Paren.


 Father Paren Avedikian, President


 Joyce Karamanian
 Secretary


 Martin Cholakian
 Chairman