

WOMEN'S GUILD
ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
1184 OCEAN AVE.
ELBERON, N.J. 07740

December 8, 1975.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
630 Second Ave.
New York, N.Y.

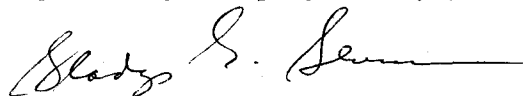
Your Eminence:

At the request of Mrs. Aroosiag Tashjian, chairman of our Women's Guild of St. Mary's Armenian Church in Elberon, N.J., I am sending a copy of the minutes of our Election Meeting of December 2nd.

The minutes include the names of the newly elected Executive officers to the Guild and the names of the Nominating Committee members for the year 1976. A tally of the votes cast is also included.

We pray for a safe return from your journey.

Respectfully and prayerfully yours,


Gladys G. Semon, Secretary

AT:GGS
Encl.

Women's Guild Election Meeting
December 2, 1975

The Women's Guild of St. Mary's Armenian Church of Elberon, N.J., met at the Church Hall on Tuesday evening, December 2, 1975.

The chairman, Mrs. Tashjian, called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Lambie, Vice-chairman led us in prayer.

Mrs. Tashjian welcomed the 37 members present plus 2 guests. One was the niece of Mrs. Varian and Mamourian and the other was the daughter of our member Mrs. Ofsana Dayermanjian.

The secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted with 2 additions.

Our treasurer, MaryAnn Tutunjian reported our balance as follows:

Balance November 1st.....	\$111.02
Income	438.50
	<u>549.52</u>

Less:

Expenses	\$109.44
Transfer to Parish	
Council	<u>2000.00</u>
	<u>2109.44</u>

Balance Nov. 30th \$2140.08

MaryAnn also reported that we made a profit of \$285.00 from the Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Mr. & Mrs. Dadourian on November 16th; which sum is included in the income for November as reported above.

Corresponding secretary, Mrs. Sahagian read letter received from Mr. and Mrs. Dadourian, thanking us for the beautiful centerpiece of fall flowers and for our cooperation in the preparing and serving of the Thanksgiving dinner, which was in memory of their son, the late Michael Bahitarian.

Their daughter-in-law Mrs. Dorothy Bahitarian enclosed a check in the amount of \$25.00 to be donated to the Guild in appreciation of our efforts.

Mrs. Sahagian also read a letter, from Mr. Levon Kasarjian of Red Bank, in which he donated the rug, he was informed he had won as second prize in our Raffle drawn on November 22nd. In his letter he suggested that St. Mary's use "or whatever disposition they may elect". Mrs. Tashjian suggested that perhaps we could use it as a prize in our next raffle.

She also announced that \$30.00 in checks had been received so far for the Christmas Greetings to appear in the next issue of Gantegh. She also announced that about \$700.00 was realized from the annual raffle this year. Many of the gifts were donated and other gifts were purchased for give-away prizes at the Raffle through monetary donations by several donors. The names will appear in the next issue of Gantegh.

MaryAnn read the list of Raffle winners; letter of thanks will be sent to Mrs. Bahitarian and Mr. Kasarjian.

Letter of thanks and \$15.00 check sent to Jameson Florist for the Thanksgiving centerpiece was read.

Mrs. Bahadurian reported the expenses of the Thanksgiving Dinner, which will be taken care of by the Dadourians.

The Secretary announced that paid up membership of the Guild was 50 members. Attendance was taken and 37 members were present and eligible to cast ballots.

Mrs. Tashjian requested Mrs. Mamourian, Nominating Committee chairman to take over and conduct the meeting of the membership for voting for the rest of the evening.

Mrs. Mamourian presented a letter to the secretary to read to the membership. The letter was from candidate, Pauline Avedikian, requesting

her name be removed from the ballot, explaining that due to ill health, she would have to decline the honor of being selected as a candidate.

Additional nominations were requested from the floor.

They are as follows: Virginia Dedeian, proposed by Mrs. Sahagian, seconded by Mrs. Mamourian;
Zabel Sahagian proposed by Mrs. Bahadurian, seconded by Mrs. Semon;
Mary Pooikian proposed by Mrs. Semon, seconded simultaneously by Ann Hagopian and Virginia Tutunjian.

Araxy Gokberk moved nominations be closed. Mrs. Mamourian seconded and passed.

10 names appeared on the ballot as well as six candidates for the 1976 Nominating Committee.

Rose Sabonjian asked Mrs. Mamourian to have someone else assist the committee on the counting of the ballots since she felt, she as a candidate on the ballot would constitute "conflict of interest". Mrs. Pacradooni also disqualified herself for the same reason. Mrs. Mamourian agreed and asked for volunteers from the membership.

Mrs. Mamourian accepted Mrs. Nalbandian and Mrs. Gokberk to help tally. While the ballot sheets were being prepared the ladies were invited to help themselves to cakes and coffee prepared by our hostesses for the evening, Mrs. Hermine Karakashian and her mother-in-law Zabel Karakashian.

The outcome was as follows:

The four winning candidates were Karakashian and Pooikian with 19 each and Chakamian and Sabonjian with 18 each. (Virginia Tutunjian with 18 also, was eliminated by picking the losing name herself from the bag of the tying contenders with 18 counts each.)

On the ballot of candidates for Nominating Committee, the three winners were Semon and Gokberk with 20 each and Sahagian with 19.

Request was made for a Recount.

The secretary, Mrs. Semon and Mrs. Dedeian joined Mrs. Mamourian, Mrs. Gokberk and Mrs. Nalbandian in the kitchen for the recount. The recount did not change the outcome as first reported above.

Tally on the Ballots is as follows:

<u>For Executive Committee</u>	<u>For Nominating Committee</u>
Bahadourian, Mary 17	Gokberk, Araxy 20
Chakamian, Jenev..... 18	Pooikian, Mary..... 15
Karakashian, Hermine..... 19	Sahagian, Zabel..... 19
Pacradooni, Haiganoosh..... 2	Semon, Gladys..... 20
Sabonjian, Rose..... 18	Tanner, Armen..... 18
Solakian, Sima..... 3	Varian, Angele..... 16
Tutunjian, Virginia 18	
Dedeian, Virginia..... 17	
Sahagian, Zabel 17	
Pooikian, Mary 19	

The meeting was adjourned by chairman, Mrs. Tashjian thanking the Nominating Committee for a job well done; asked for continued support for the Guild to help make the coming year a successful one for the support of our Church.

Our next meeting is December 16th.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys G. Semon
Gladys G. Semon, Secy.

File Elberon

BARKAVE G. ELIAN
COUNSELLOR AT LAW
5810 BERGENLINE AVE.
WEST NEW YORK, N. J. 07093

865-2255
AREA CODE 201

March 12, 1975

His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, and Members
of the Diocesan Council of the Armenian Church of America:
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

RE: St. Mary's Armenian Church
Elberon, New Jersey

Your Grace:

I enclose herewith copies of the following papers:

1. Minutes of the 1975 Parish Assembly Meeting as originally submitted by the Secretary of the Parish Assembly.
2. Suggested corrections of said Minutes furnished by Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian, our Parish Priest.
3. Letter of March 4, 1975 enclosing revised original copy of the aforesaid Minutes as finally approved by the Chairman and Secretary of said Meeting.
4. Original revised Minutes of the 1975 Parish Assembly Meeting signed by the Chairman and Secretary of said Meeting which our Parish Priest declined to sign.

You will observe that the revised Minutes have incorporated some of the suggestions of our Parish Priest but the other suggestions were not incorporated because it was felt they were unjustified or unwarranted. I prefer not to answer the comments made in Reverend Kalayjian's suggested corrections, unless I am directed to do so.

If you have any questions, feel free to call or write me.

Respectfully yours,



Barkave G. Elian

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY - 1975 - (Suggested corrections)

1) Add to the first paragraph - Page One -

F. Kalayjian

"The church services were over at 11.50 A.M. The reason the meeting was late to start was a new procedure of admitting members to the Assembly, instituted without the consent of the Parish Priest and/or the Parish Council?"

Comment - There is no need to mention that, that "new method" created aggravations in an already tense atmosphere.

Second, this unwanted precedent cannot be given legitimacy.

2) A. PASTOR'S MESSAGE - Page Two - The first paragraph should read:

"Father Kalayjian read his message although it was printed in the Annual Report book?"

Comment - a) The President (the Pastor) does not require a permission to deliver his message.

b) It has been customary to hear the Pastor's message even though reading of other reports has been waived.

3) The last paragraph on page two and the continuation thereof should be deleted. Because:

a) The Chairman ruled that it was not relevant to the message just read. This meant that it was ruled out of order even though it was not so worded.

b) Because of the Chairman's ruling there was no rebuttal or explanation offered.

c) It was referred to a later time on the agenda to be considered but was never brought up again.

d) No person's comment as legitimate as it may be could (not) be made part of the minutes unless the membership has acted upon it by a vote. This means that only properly entertained motions could be made part of the record.

This is applicable to all comments made by other persons on other subjects. A good example is the section on the Budget.

c) If this is to be included there are dozen of "gems" that are left out such as Mr. A. Mameourian's statement that "We have a Sunday School and that's enough". There is no need to list the rest of the eleven.

4) As to the content of the said paragraph I enclose two "ANNUAL REPORT"s from other parishes and hope you will find the answers there.

Also, There are numerous areas where a Pastor's work overlaps with that of the Parish Council's and vice versa. By having all these activities under one report it becomes easier to report all of those activities in the third person. If you detect humility in the above you are correct! If I have to report everything in the implied detailforget it. Besides who would be interested how many parishioners I have tried to get out of the next ones hair not mentioning mine, and my families. And how do you report that or keep a record of it.

In this report both Pastor and Parish Council could identify themselves with the work done in its entirety. Some people may not like it, but that is the way I have been functioning and hope to continue in that positive direction

5) On page three delete the second paragraph. It should read:

"The Chairman, following the custom established during the past few years appointed Mr.V.Karakashian as his Vice Chairman"

Comment I did not remind it to Mr.Elian.

6) B. COMMENTS ON WRITTEN REPORTS - Page 3 -

On the seventh line starting from the sentence: "Father Kalayjian....." to the end of the paragraph should be deleted. Instead, it should read as follows:

"Father Kalayjian apologized for the name left out and gave explanations on the other points as follows:

- a) The Committee delegated by the Parish Council could not expect to see their report in the Annual Report of the Parish Council verbatim.
- b) Adequate resume was included in the Parish Council Report with due acknowledgements and thanks.
- c) No figures have been altered.
- d) The balance of approximately \$430.00 which the Committee turned over to the Parish Council for the Emergency fund was duly acknowledged elsewhere."

Comment - It is interesting how Dr.Haroutunian gets more than enthusiastic coverage "she was angry", report being "so cut down", "wording, figures, names left out as well as changed" and - but Father Kalayjian only "apologized" and "tried to give explanations" and "Dr.Haroutunian refused to accept" them this "two way conversation was closed by Dr.Haroutunian"

No further comment!

7) BUDGET - Page 5 - Paragraph numbered (4) should read:

"While considering the Diocesan Dues during the Budget discussion, Father Kalayjian was asked to explain what a St.Vartan Steward is and how it affects our assessment. He gave the necessary explanation and announced the names of the St.Vartan Stewards of our parish: Messrs: B.Elian, V.Karakashian and J.Chakamian.

8) PROPOSALS - The text of the proposals should appear in the minutes as approved.

9) On page 7 - at the end of paragraph marked "A" should be added:

"A considerable number of parishioners had left for two reasons:

- a) because the hour was too late, and
- b) because the preceeding arguments had created a tense atmosphere."

10) The last page should appear as follows:

Respectfully submitted

Mrs.A. Gekberk
Secretary

Mr.B. Elian
Chairman

Fr.V. Kalayjian
Pastor, President

P.W.K.

11) SOME MORE COMMENTS

a) Beautification Committee

The Parish structure is such that if the committees of each organization wanted to acknowledge donations they have the Hye-Gantegh to do so. None of the other Committees (Telephone Book, Raffle, Cultural Month, to name a few) got the same treatment. By having the Beautification Committee's work mentioned in the Annual Report we thought we gave them the "cooperation" it was referred to even though all of the activities were covered in the Hye-Gantegh prominently.

b) The last word in the first paragraph on page 3 - "deceiving"

I wish someone (not Mrs.A. Gokberk) will point out ^{what} "deceiving" in the Report or "vague" for that matter.

If there was any deception it was in the words " I say these not as an insult but with a christian spirit" said with non-christian arrogance.

The deception is also evident in the recorded "Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting" which does not give the true picture of the assembly where partisanship, animosity, divisiveness, anti-youth feelings were manifested abundantly. Yes, there also was lack of christian spirit and brotherly love.

c) The confirmation of the elections and acceptance of all reports by the Primate depends on speedy submission of all documents relating to the parish assembly

These corrections and comments have been mailed with the original text to the following:

Mr.B.Elian, Mr.A. Bulbulian, Mrs.A. Gokberk.

JKK

March 4, 1975

Father Kalayjian:

Enclosed herewith, please find minutes of the Parish Assembly held on February 16, 1975, revised in the light of your suggestions and approved in its present form by the Officers of the said meeting.

Kindly affix your signature and mail to Mr. Flan for his signature and mailing to the Diocese. The officers consider these minutes as final.

If the enclosed copy, with your signature affixed thereto, is not received within five (5) days from date hereof, the officers will mail same to Diocesan Council with a copy of your suggested corrections.

Respectfully submitted,



Arax Gokberk

Secretary of the Parish Assembly

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 OCEAN AVENUE
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kaisyjian, Pastor

His Eminence Archbishop
Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church
of No. America and Canada
630 Second Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10016

March 11, 1975

Serpazan Hayr,

I am enclosing all the documents relating to our Parish Annual Assembly held on Feb. 16, 1975. In relation to the Minutes of the Assembly and the Assembly itself in general I have a few observations which I hope will explain a few things. I also hope that you will provide some guidance where it is needed, and offer corrections that are necessary.

Since the Minutes as submitted will become part of permanent record of St. Mary's Armenian Church, Elberon, N.J. in the Diocesan files I hope this letter will remain physically attached to these Minutes.

As the Pastor and the President of the said Assembly I could not sign these documents and I hope the reasons will be clear in the following pages. I submit them to you as they are only to expedite the confirmation of the newly elected officers of the parish and avoid further tension.

The minutes that are submitted are in semi-corrected version. What I thought it was my duty, I offered to the officers of the Assembly suggestions for corrections. Only partial correction was realized with strong resistance along the way. And this process of correction delayed the submission of the reports to your Eminence.

Here are my observations.

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 OCEAN AVENUE
ELMERON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

1) What the minutes do not show is that:

The Church Services were over at 11:50 A.M.. The reason the meeting was late to start was a new procedure of admitting members to the Assembly, instituted without the consent of the Parish Council and/or the Parish Priest.

The Chairman of the last year's Assembly, along with the members of the Nominating Committee, took upon himself to shut the side doors of the church and called the members by name and allowed them to enter the church after close scrutiny of their credentials. The Pastor and the Parish Council chose to avoid confrontation in an already emotionally charged atmosphere. This "new method" nevertheless, heightened the tension and caused aggravations. It also affected the entire proceedings at the Assembly.

I hope you agree that this bad precedent of usurpation of the Parish Council's prerogatives as defined by the by-laws, should not be granted legitimacy.

2) The minutes are deliberately and/or inadvertantly biased in that, they have included "comments" and excluded others in such a manner that is abusive of the rights and the privileges of those present. The case in point is the last paragraph on page two of the Assembly Minutes 1975, and the continuation thereof. This paragraph should not have found a hospitable space in these minutes because:

a) Any comment made by any member cannot be a part of the minutes unless the chairman so directs and unless there is a challenge by the members. This did not happen.

b) The Chairman ruled that it was not relevant to the message the Pastor had read previously. This meant that it was ruled out of order even though it was not so worded.

c) Because of the Chairman's both action and inaction there was no rebuttal or explanation offered.

d) It was referred to a later time on the agenda but was never brought up again.

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 OCEAN AVENUE
ELRLPON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 224-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

As to the content of the said paragraph I need not to go any further. The pages of the Annual Report Book of 1974 (enclosed along with other documents) are adequate rebuttal to the tendentious remarks made.

e) If this paragraph is to be included than there were dozens of such remarks made by other members in attendance which also should have been faithfully recorded. The Assembly lasted over six long hours and the minutes reflect only a portion of what really expired during those hours.

3) The minutes do not reflect also the fact that just prior to the election of the Diocesan Delegate, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee (page five in the 1975 Assembly Minutes) a considerable number of parishioners had left because the hour was too late and more obviously in disgust and in reaction to the partisanship, animosity, divisiveness and anti-youth feelings manifested during the deliberations.

There was an evident lack of christian spirit and brotherly love. For the above reasons therefore, I could not, as the President of the Assembly authenticate the minutes of the Feb. 16, '75 meeting.

Furthermore there are a few questions in relation to our recent Parish Assembly, need clarifications, or privileges and prerogatives of the officers of the parish that need to be explained under the provisions of our by-laws. They are:

- a) Who calls or convenes the Parish Annual Assembly?
- b) Who is in charge before and until the officers of the Assembly are elected?
- c) Who is in charge of verification of dues paying members?
When are we supposed to do the verifications?
What are the Parish Council's responsibilities in this case?
Should the credentials be challenged prior to the seating and prayer or after and in the presence of all members?
- d) Could the second proposal, which was adopted (see page 7 in the Minutes of 1975 Parish Assembly) during the last assembly, in any way be considered constitutional in view of the fact that there are some provisions in the by-laws concerning mid-year or special membership meetings. If so-
-Who would call the 1976 Parish Assembly? The Parish Council or the officers of the Assembly?
-Where and when does the term of the Assembly officers expire?
-In the interim, between the election of the old and new officers

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 OCEAN AVENUE
ELMIRON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 222-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

who conducts the Assembly?

I am aware that some of the answers are to be found in the by-laws. But because there has been conflicting interpretations, and complete disregard to the guidance provided by the Pastor and the Parish Council, we need your guidance in these and in many similar issues.

In addition, Serpazan Hayr, here are a few more observations that I find necessary to record for your information and consideration.

1) As the pastor of this new community for the last two and a half years I worked to broaden the base of this Parish by encouraging and inviting all armenians residing in these Monmouth and Ocean Counties, to participate in the life and work of the church.

Until six months ago the fruits of our labor(my and mostly young couples who shared the same concern) seemed encouraging. We were,so we thought,on a positive and constructive mission of uniting the seperated brethren whithin the framework of our parish organization. We actively promoted reconciliation and harmony. One impressive result of these efforts was the establishment of the St.Mary's Mesrobian School.(further detail see in the Annual Report Book of 1974). Another result was the potential increase of our membership which now can only be guessed.

Our last Annual Assembly came to shatter all that was positively for the good of the community and polarized us,hopefully not beyond any repair. The backlash was so obvious and strong that even fair minded,progressive thinking young couples,practically all of the parents of the youth and the children of this community were branded indiscriminately with political name callings by this group of parishioners who still think and feel as if they lived in the 30's.

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

1184 OCEAN AVENUE
ELEFPON, NEW JERSEY

Telephone: 225-0127

Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

2) Because of these happenings, my work, the work of the parish is being undermined. Our potential increase in the membership has to come from that group of armenians who definitely do not think as they are in the 30's. Our financial stability and future progress also rests upon those young working couples who do care to establish a viable community where their children will grow in the traditions of the Armenian Church.

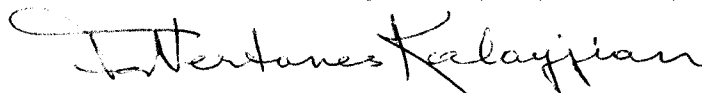
3) I may be reacting hastily by predicting that if this situation be allowed to continue, if restraint is not applied to our behavior we may see the creation of another rival community within the boundries of St.Mary's Parish. This may lend itself as a case in point in the hands of those already against unity where we are striving to reach.

4) I shall not be part of this.

Serpazan Hayr, may I take this opportunity to remind you, as you suggested, that a personal visit by you to meet our Parish Council and Church Organizations and parishioners, will be extremely helpful and is urgently needed.

Please let us know of the date you intend to visit our Parish.

Humbly and prayerfully



Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
ELBERON, NEW JERSEY
MINUTES OF THE 1975 PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

1. Roll Call and Opening of the Meeting

The 1975 General Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Elberon, N. J. was held in the church, Sunday, February 16, 1975, at 1:50 P.M. [after church services and after a complimentary lunch was served by members of the Parish Council.]

Father Kalayjian opened the meeting with prayer.

E. M. Elian (67 years old) ...
Mr. B. Elian thanked everyone for being present. He then announced that the order of business as stated in the agenda would be changed slightly and that elections of the parish council would follow the roll call and election of the Tivan. This would enable persons who could not stay for the entire meeting to vote and leave at their pleasure. He then asked Mrs. Araxy Gokberk, secretary, to conduct the roll call which revealed 76 paid up and eligible voting members present out of 121 voting members, thus constituting a quorum. Approximately ten non-members were also in attendance. Shortly afterwards, other voting members arrived bringing the total from 76 to 81 present.

2. Election of the Tivan

Mr. Elian announced that the assembly would first elect a chairman and a secretary for the 1975 Parish Assembly. The following nominations were made for chairman and seconded: Mr. B. Elian, Mr. J. Chakamian, Mrs. A. Gokberk. *Mrs. B. Elian*

At this point Mr. J. Chakamian expressed in a few brief words the responsibilities for the chairman of the assembly in English. Mrs. M. Bahadurian asked that Mr. Chakamian's speech be repeated in Armenian which Mr. Elian did. Mr. A. Mamourian asked that a few introductory words be said about each person nominated but his request was not granted.

Open voting determined the assembly's choice. Mr. B. Elian received 50 votes and since this was a number over the majority present, there was no need to continue with votes for the rest of the candidates and Mr. B. Elian was duly elected chairman of the day.

The floor was then open for nominations for secretary of the assembly. The following were nominated and all declined: Mrs. A. Gokberk, Mrs. E. Alexanian, Mrs. J. Chakamian and Mrs. V. Dedeian. A short discussion followed and it was unanimously decided that Mrs. A. Gokberk must do this job although she objected. She did not accept, but, did do the secretarial work for the day.

3. Elections

A. PARISH COUNCIL: Mr. Elian asked Mr. Vincent Karakashian to copy the names of nominees, as presented by the nominating committee, found on page 5 of the annual report book, on the blackboard. Nominations were then made from the floor as follows: Mr. Pacradooni (declined), Mr. A. Mamourian (declined) Mr. Z. Ghazarian, Mr. John Pehlavanian, Mr. H. Serabian. Upon the close of nominations, Mr. John Chakamian asked that his name be removed from the ballot, that he had made this request previously to the nominating committee and was told to make this request at the Parish Assembly meeting since the ballot had already been prepared. His name was removed from the ballot.

The ballots had not been printed by the Parish Council, Father Kalayjian explained, because it was felt that it could quickly be done at the last minute and include names nominated from the floor, saving voters time and possible confusion because voters would have to write these names in if it was their choice. Father Kalayjian then suggested the nominating committee be excused to print the ballot and to place all the names in alphabetical order, including in this order the names just nominated from the floor.

At this point Mrs. V. Dedeian requested her name be taken off the ballot. Mr. V. Karakashian was instructed by Mr. Elian to do so.

A discussion followed in regard to Father Kalayjian's suggestion as to how the ballot should be printed. Mr. Gokberk made a motion that all names be printed in alphabetical order including those just nominated from the floor. It was seconded and voted upon and defeated. Mr. J. Pehlavanian then made a motion that all names be placed in order as a choice made from drawing lots. The motion was seconded, voted upon and defeated. Mr. John Kaiserian then made a motion the ballot be printed as presented by the nominating committee, in alphabetical order, then, the new nominations that were just made from the floor, be added at the bottom. The motion was seconded, voted upon and passed. Mrs. V. Dedeian from the nominating committee then left to print the ballot.

4. Consideration of Reports

A. PASTOR'S MESSAGE: Father Kalayjian explained he would read his message although it was printed in the Annual Report Book.

(1). Mrs. Gokberk commented that the message Father Kalayjian had read was very lovely but possibly not timely in a book of reports. In addition to the message, she and many others had expected a report giving his activities for the year. She commented that many of his activities were listed under the Parish Council report which in reality should have been in his

report. She added that regardless of where Father Kalayjian's activities were reported they should first of all have been more complete in that all his activities should have been listed and secondly more numerical facts backing records should be given so that the report would be authentic and not vague and deceiving.

Mr. Elian, at this point remembered that he had not appointed a Vice Chairman which is customary. Therefore he appointed Mr. V. Karakashian. *What custom?*

Mr. J. Chakamian requested that no other reports be read since they were in the report book and everyone had had a chance to read them, also, at a previous Parish Assembly meeting it was decided that reading of these written reports was unnecessary.

B. Comments on Written Reports:

(1). Dr. A. Haroutunian spoke in behalf of the Beautification Committee. She commented that the Beautification Committee had submitted a well planned complete and true report on their year's activities for the annual report book. She was angry over the fact that the report had been so cut down and that it no longer gave a true picture. Wording had been changed and an important figure and name had been left out. The report failed to indicate that the sum of \$437.00 was turned over to the Parish Council to be applied to the electric fund. Father Kalayjian apologized for the name left out and tried to give explanations on other points but Dr. Haroutunian refused to accept these explanations and the two way conversation was closed by Dr. Haroutunian. The explanations Father Kalayjian gave were as follows:

1. The committees delegated by the Parish Council could not expect to see their report in the Annual Report of the Parish Council verbatim.
2. Adequate resume was included in the Parish Council Report with due acknowledgements and thanks.
3. No figures have been altered.
4. The balance of approximately \$430.00 which the Committee turned over to the Parish Council for the Emergency Fund was duly acknowledged elsewhere.

(2). Mrs. J. Chakamian said that she had reported in her Women's Guild report that the Ways & Means Committee had a profit of \$4,200.00 but the figure was closer to \$5,000.00. She requested that Mrs. A. Tashjian, the new Women's Guild Chairman present the Parish Council with a check from the Guild in the amount of \$3,900.00. She also commented that it was their desire this money go toward the completion of the church driveway and parking lot.

(3). Mr. Elian then asked Mr. John Kaiserian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee to give his comments. Mr. Kaiserian said that the books were kept very well this year and were mathematically correct.

(a). Mr. John Chakamian also on the auditing committee, promised Mr. Kaiserian and Mr. Gokberk, Treasurer, for their outstanding work.

(b). Mrs. Gokberk brought up a question in regard to the Building Fund. She said she was of the understanding that the Women's Guild had presented a check last year to the Parish Council for the Building Fund but did not see this reported in any of the financial accounts--just what is the situation on the Building Fund? Much discussion arose from this question--some a little confusing. Mr. Bulbulian said that such money had been received and deposited in the Church treasury. He suggested opening a special account for this money. Mr. Chakamian said the church has a building Committee of which he is chairman but up to now they haven't needed any money. At present they have an investigation going on for which they will need funds. He also called to the attention of the people that last year's Parish Assembly voted that if the Building Committee need money that they should raise their own funds. Mrs. B. Lambie wanted to know if the check Mrs. Chakamian presented to the Parish Council was made out to the Building Fund. Mrs. Chakamian said yes that it was made out to St. Mary's Armenian Church Building Fund. Mr. Mamourian said if a check was made out to the Building Fund, how had it been endorsed? Mr. McOmber made a motion that the Parish Council open an account "Building Fund" and put this money in question in it. It was seconded. More discussion followed. Father Kalayjian said that there was established, three years ago at a Parish Assembly meeting a building fund account, but since we had no money for it it was never opened. Mr. Pacradouni wants to know what "Building Fund" stands for, a "New Building" or extension of the "Old Building". Mr. V. Karakashian said this as yet has not been defined. The motion made by Mr. McOmber was retracted. A motion was made that the Parish Council discuss this "Building Fund" definition and make its recommendation at a future meeting. Until such time there would be a freeze on any money labeled "Building Fund". The motion was seconded and passed.

Although it was evident that there were still many questions in regard to the reports, time was getting short and the meeting was forced to go on to the next order of business.

5. Continuation of Parish Council Elections

A. PRESENTATION OF PRINTED BALLOT, CANDIDATES AND VOTING:
The ballot had been printed and presented to Mr. Elian. Mr. Elian introduced the candidates. The chair then appointed a few people to help with the voting procedure along with the nominating committee. The casting of ballots began and after

a short wait, election results were announced as follows:

Dr. Stephen Checkosky - 21	Mr. George Poosikian - 22
*Mr. Sarkis Dadourian - 46	Mr. Hagop Zadikian - 39
*Mr. Barkave Elian - 59	Mr. Zohrab Ghazarian - 24
*Mrs. Araxy Gokberk - 45	Mr. John Pahlavanian - 26
*Dr. Anna Haroutunian - 51	Mr. Haig Serabian - 20
*Mr. John Kaiserian - 48	

6. Election of Diocesan Delegate, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee

A. Mr. Elian once again asked Mr. V. Karakashian to place the names presented by the nominating committee, found on page 5, of the candidates for the Diocesan Delegate, Auditing committee and Nominating Committee on the Blackboard.

B. Nominations from the floor were accepted for the Diocesan Delegate. They were as follows: Mr. J. Chakamian, Mr. A. Mamourian and Mr. H. Alexanian.

Nominations from the floor were next accepted for the Nominating Committee. They were as follows: Mrs. S. Nalbandian (declined), Mrs. J. Chakamian (declined), Mrs. V. Zadikian, Mr. John Pehlavanian, and Mrs. A. Elian.

Nominations from the floor were next accepted for the auditing committee. They were as follows: Mr. John Pehlavanian.

Mrs. V. Dedeian once again left the room to print the ballot for these three committees.

7. Budget

A. Mr. Elian called on Mr. J. Chakamian to explain and lead any discussion on the budget.

B. Comments on the budget were as follows:

(1). Mrs. M. Bahadurian said the budget set for this year was too high. She suggested cutting the budget by reducing the cost of the parking lot by only building a small parking lot for the time being.

(2). Mr. Kaiserian said the budget for this year was set too high. The amount stated for publicity and postage could be reduced.

(3). Mr. McOmber said last year our income included Mr. Chakmakian's estate and therefore we have no guarantee of another such year. Therefore, he felt the budget was set too high.

(4). Father Kalayjian was asked to explain what a St. Vartan Steward is and how it affects our assessment. He gave the necessary explanation and announced the names of the St. Vartan Stewards of our parish: Messrs: B. Elian, V. Karakashian and J. Chakamian.

(5). Mr. J. Kaiserian wanted to know more about the Priest's office to be built: where, why so expensive, and, were there

professional estimates used to derive at the figure stated?

(a). Mr. Chakamian answered that the office would be in the old store room next to the kitchen. The figure used was not derived through professional estimates. Expenses that would be involved are paneling, carpeting, furniture, etc.

(b). Father Kalayjian commented that he had had a verbal commitment from a professional at \$1,300.00.

(6). Mr. McOmber wanted an explanation of the \$1,500.00 for recreational facilities.

(a). Mr. Chakamian said they had the youth in mind building them an outdoor basketball, tennis and volley ball courts, and, perhaps an indoor lounging area.

(b). Mrs. N. Dadourian said that recreational facilities of this sort at present, were not necessary.

(7). Mr. McOmber made a motion to accept the budget as presented except for the last two items - the parking lot and recreational facilities. Monies for these last two items should only be spent if we are sure can afford it.

(8). Mrs. Chakamian showed concern for the \$3,900.00 the women had just given the Parish Council for the parking lot. Mr. Elian said not to worry it would be properly handled.

(9). Mr. Bulbulian said that during 1974 only 50% of the members supported the church financially. There were thirty families who could well afford to make contributions equal to that of supporting families, but their total contribution never excelled the sum of 25¢ per week, which is less than our Sunday School children contribute regularly. If everyone takes equal responsibility there can be no problem of maintaining a decent budget.

A short discussion went on about fund raising.

(10). Mr. J. Chakamian made a motion to increase membership fees from \$12.00 to \$52.00 per year. Mr. A. Gokberk seconded the motion. Father Kalayjian gave a very good explanation of what all this really meant. The motion was voted on and defeated.

(11). Mr. Mamourian made a motion to raise the membership dues to \$52.00 but do away with the pledge system. It was seconded, voted upon and defeated.

(12). Mr. J. Solakian made a motion to raise the dues to \$40.00. It was seconded, voted on and defeated.

(13). Mr. Kaiserian made a motion to find out if the members "do or do not want the membership dues raised." The motion was seconded and voted upon. It was decided the membership dues should stay at \$12.00 a year.

(14). Mr. McOmber's motion was voted upon and passed.

(15). Mr. Kaiserian made a motion to get a mortgage on the church so that we could finish the parking lot. The motion was not seconded.

8. Proposals

A. The five resolutions recommended in the annual report book which follow were voted upon and approved.

1. The Nominating Committee be composed of Five (5) members instead of the Three (3) as it is at present.

2. At the close of the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly, same shall be recessed and reconvened, under the same officers, at least twice a year; once on a Sunday in May, and once on a Sunday in September, as said officers may determine by notice mailed to each member at least two weeks in advance of said meeting.

3. All meetings of the Parish Council shall be open and the members of this Church shall have the right to attend such meetings and be given reasonable opportunity to express their views on any issue that may come before such meeting.

4. Notice of any meeting of the Parish Council shall be given to each member in advance by publication in the Gantegh and a copy affixed to the Bulletin Board in the Church hall together with a copy of the agenda to be discussed at such meeting.

All regulatory resolutions and resolutions of general interest to the general membership passed by the Parish Council shall be published in the manner set forth hereabove.

5. A rotating Committee shall be established under the direction of the Parish Council, whose function shall be to take inventory of all tangible assets belonging to the church, preserve and safe-guard same and keep proper records thereof giving sufficient description to identify each item and the date and the name and address of the person or persons from whom such item was acquired.

Such committee shall consist of 3 persons and when first established, the person receiving the highest votes shall serve for a period of 3 years, and the person receiving the next highest votes shall serve for 2 years and the person receiving the third highest votes shall serve for 1 year. At each annual meeting of the General Assembly thereafter, one person shall be elected to fill in the vacancy caused by the person whose term shall have expired.

(1). Members of committee referred to in resolution #5 will be elected at the next Parish Assembly meeting.

9. New Proposals

A. A proposal was presented by the Parish Council, dated 12/74, which had not been printed in the report book, stating that the church should purchase a car for its use and pay for all maintenance, service, insurance, etc.

(1). Discussion followed, mostly against going into such an expense at this time.

(2). The proposal was voted upon and defeated.

10. Old Business

A. Mr. Kaiserian explained there were some typing errors in the Sunday School Financial report . . Gomidas lecture should read \$200.99. Balance on savings account should read \$738.09.

11. Election of Diocesan Delegate, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee continued

A. Ballots were printed now and were passed out by the Nominating Committee and helpers and votes cast and ballots returned.

B. Results of this election were tallied on the blackboard.

C. Election results were as follows:

(1). Diocesan Delegate: Mrs. V. Dedeian 6, Miss Mary Ann Tutunjian 3, Mr. J. Chakamian 15, *Mr. Alex Mamourian 23, Mr. Hagop Alexanian 4. Mary

(2). Nominating Committee: *Mrs. Mary Bahadurian 44, *Mrs. Hermine Karakashian 48, Mrs. Siranoush Najarian 5, *Mrs. H. Pacradouni 37, Mrs. Mary Poosikian 14, Mrs. A. Varian 22, *Mrs. V. Zadikian 34, Mr. John Pehlavanian 18, *Mrs. Angel Elian 35.

(3). Auditing Committee; Mr. George Chookazian 14, *Mr. Vincent Karakashian 42, *Mr. Alex Mamourian 40, *Mr. Richard McOmber 28, Mrs. V. Zadikian 13, Mr. John Pehlavanian 15.

12. Closing

A. A motion was made to recess the meeting and it was seconded and voted upon. Mr. Elian declared the meeting recessed at 8:00 P.M. to be reconvened on a date to be announced. ?

B. No closing prayer was made as scheduled on the agenda.

(A later count revealed that 51 persons out of the 81 had remained throughout the entire meeting).

Respectfully Submitted,

Araxy Gokberk

Mrs. Araxy Gokberk, Secretary

Barkave S. Gharian

Mr. B. Elian, Chairman of the Parish Assembly

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH
ELBERON, N. J.

A Parish Council meeting was called on January 7, 1976 for the interim Council. The meeting was held at the home of our Chairman John Chakamian.

Those present: Jack Antreassian, John Kaisarian, Zareh Manigian, Mary Ann Tutunjian, John Pehlevanian, John Chakamian.

Not Present: Mary Hachigian who had given notification she would not be present due to a union meeting, and Barkev Elian who did not notify us.

The meeting convened at 8:10 and John Chakamian led us in prayer. Mr. Chakamian presided over the meeting. Mary Ann Tutunjian took the minutes in lieu of Mary Hachigian's absence.

First on the agenda was to notify all members of our ratification by mailing copies of the Primates December 29, 1975 letter, to all members. John Pehlevanian had run off 120 copies which were addressed that evening.

Correspondence read: the next meeting will be held at 7:00 P. M. on January 8, 1976 at the church with Judge Najarian presiding. Only those invited would attend. This being the 1975 Parish Council and the interim Council. It also was mentioned that a letter of December 29, 1975 telling of the coming Parish assessments. Also, two letters dated January 2, 1976 from the Primate as reminders to check with the town licensing bureau of the procedures complying with the marriage bureau, the other a reminder of the Requiem Service for Deceased Primates.

Mr. Chakamian stated that all existing committees are dissolved re: the Primates directive. The following new committees were to be recommended and established:

1. Maintenance of building and grounds
2. Altar Guild
3. Budget and Finance
4. Publication
5. Education (Armenian School and Sunday School)
6. Ways and Means (Fund Raising)
7. Stewardship Committee
8. Youth Group

It was stated by Mr. Chakamian that the Women's Guild recently elected executive board was to be ratified by the Parish Council. Also, that the minutes from that meeting were sent to the Primate.

At this time the only Church body the Primate and Council will recognize is the appointed Parish Council.

SUGGESTIONS were then given by Mr. Chakamian and from the Council for members to the following committees:

1. Maintainance (Bldg. & Grounds)
Setrak Tutunjian (Chairman)
Andrew Rivas, Kevork Christophorian, Levon Hekemian
2. BUILDING
Andrew Rivas (Chairman)
Hriar Hovnanian, Shorab Ghazarian, Berge Boutchakjian

It was thought to be in the best interest to separate the Grounds and the Building committees. John Kaisarian asked if the grounds committee would include the parking lot. Mr. Chakamian stated to the affirmative. Mr. Kaisarian stated the lot was in need of the parking lines as this was a city ordinance.

3. ALTAR GUILD
Mrs. A. Varian (Chairwomen)
Mrs. Zevart Hovnanian, Rumson, N. J., Mrs. Linda Kondakjian.
Mr. Chakamian stated that these fine and gracious ladies have accepted. It is the understanding that they are to work with the jurisdiction of Der Hayr.

4. Budget and Finance: The question was raised by Mr. Antreassian of what and whom would the committee consist of? Who should and would make up the budget? Was the treasurer to be on the committee? Mr. Antreassian stated how he felt a budget committee should function. Among his recommendations were that the treasurer should not collect the monies in church, but not to have the Parish Council do it either, that is to pass the plate. It was suggested that the parishoners should have the chance to participate in the name date of their given name on that Saint's day. We thought his a nice idea.

Mr. Chakamian asked who should formulate the budget? Mr. Antreassian suggested a consultant. The following were mentioned for the budget committee:

Haig Serabian, Vincent Karakashian, George Poozikian, Jean Avedikian.
We felt the above encompassed a good cross section in working for the benefit of the community.

Mr. Antreassian felt the budget belonged to an auditor prior to going before the assembly of members with the like we have now.
Mr. Kaisarian suggested the committee should be called the Budget and Stewardship. The budget to be chaired by Mr. Kaisarian.

5. PUBLICATIONS: Gantegh, Newsletters reports, etc.
Armen Bulbulian and Virginia Dedeian (co-chairman)
Gladys Semon, John Pelevanian, Carl Kaisarian, Der Hayr.
6. EDUCATION COMMITTEE: (Armenian School and Sunday School)
Hermlana Karakashian (Sunday School)
Zibelle Sahagian (Armenian School) and the Yeretzgin

Mr. Chakamian suggest as chairman for the Educational Committee
Mr. Megiderchian of Englishtown, N. J.

7. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

This was suggested to be set up to have a flow of money coming into the church. It was suggested that at least \$1.00 per week be recommended.

Mr. Kaisarian interjected that he was aware of a newly formed corporation which would perhaps hinder our receiving the treasury monies.

The STEWARDSHIP committee:

Hourant Karkashian and Hriar Hovnanian.

Mr. Kaisarian felt that "both sides" should be represented and Mrs. Mary Bahadourian was added.

Since the above parties reside in Monmouth county we felt Ocean County should have a representation also.

Suggested: Sarkis Dadourian, Hourant Karkashian, Louise Hovsepian.

Mr. Antreassian suggested we should of course have a preliminary meeting prior to our attending homes and receiving the stewardship pledges.

8. WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. & Mrs. Avedis Gokberk (Roxy) (co-chairman)
George Kazanjian, Mr. Vahe Aramian, Mary Poosikian

9. YOUTH GROUP

The Parish Council will fully cooperate with the youth group as to their needs. The group feels they need the strong leadership of their past leaders Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Voskian. Mr. Chakamian will contact them. A motion was made and passed. It was also suggested that counselors from outside churches to be contacted to give us ideas.

The council will meet with the group within the next 30 to 60 days. Eddie Kaisarian of Bethlehem, Penn. chairman of the ACYOA was mentioned as perhaps being able to guide the group.

If the Voskians did refuse Mr. Michael Gorra and Dr. Steve Checkosky we suggested.

The ratification of the newly elected members of the Women's Guild were given and the Women's Guild executive meeting report of January 7, 1976 was read as anoted by Mr. Chakamian who was invited to attend by Mrs. Tashjian the chairman. The following ladies are on the board: Mrs. A. Tashjian, Mrs. Rose Sabonjian, Mrs. S. Najarian, Mrs. B. Lambie, Mrs. H. Karakashian, Mrs. Mary Poosikian, Miss Mary Ann Tutunjian, Mrs. Geneve Chakamian, Mrs. Ann Hagopian. Upon reading the minutes of Mr. Chakamians observation it was asked by Mr. Pelevanian to table the ratification of the existing body of the Women's Guild. Mr. Chakamian stated he would contact Mrs. Tashjian chairman as to the move.

Mr. Zareh Manigian had a monetary report to make. He had in his possession \$274.00 in checks and Cash which had been handed to him through various channels over the holidays.

It was suggested that Mr. Manigian become treasurer and John Pelevanian, Vice-Chairman.

A checking account would be opened in the Central Jersey Bank at Freehold, N. J. with the following signatures: John Pelevanian, Zareh Manigian, John Chakamian. These names were mentioned as to the proximity of the homes of Mr. Manigian and Mr. Pelevanian. The cards were filled out and signed immediately.

We will hold our Parish Council meetings twice a month on Wednesday nights. Our next meeting will be Wednesday January 21, 1976.

Mr. Chakamian will have an agenda prior to each meeting, and if any items are to be added to please contact him.

Mr. Kaisarian wished to discuss the lock and key situation in our church which has been a difficult problem. Upon some discussion we tabled it until another date.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Tutunjian

Mary Ann Tutunjian
Corresponding Secrary

John Chakamian
JOHN CHAKAMIAN
CHAIRMAN

1/9/76

After receiving the Primate's letter dated 12-29-75, appointing me as chairman of the Parish Council, I took it upon myself to call Mr. Barkave Elian on Saturday, January 3, to ask him for the Church books to be audited and prepared, to be turned over to the newly appointed Parish Council.

During our telephone conversation, Mr. Elian did tell me that the majority of people did not recognize the Diocese Council and Primate's authority to suspend a duly elected administration, and there was no precedent nor anything in the Bi-laws that would substantiate that decision; and that the only way he would turn over the books and funds would be to a court appointed arbitrator, or a court order, because as far as he was concerned, they were democratically elected, and that the Diocesan Council's decision had no bearing on it at all. I told Mr. Elian to consider what he had said, and that I would see him in church the next day.

Sunday after Badarak, I spoke with Mr. Elian, and he repeated to me what he had said on the telephone the previous day, and stated again that it would take a court order, and that he was going to ignore the decision of the Primate and Diocesan Council.

Since that time, many members of the Parish have made contributions to the Church and the newly appointed administration, and it is my decision to open up a temporary bank account to deposit such monies, and substantiate each and every contribution.

Also since that time, I asked Fr. V. Kalayjian to pick up mail daily at the post office box, and at his convenience to deliver such mail to me.

On Tuesday evening, January 6, I was invited by the Chairman of the Women's Guild, Mrs. Arousiag Tashjian, to attend the executive committee meeting, and address the executive body and notify them of the ratification of their election. The meeting was scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. and much to my astonishment, Mrs. Hermine Karakashian and Mrs. Beatrice Lambie disgracefully disrupted the start of the meeting, by stating that they did not recognize John Chakamian as the appointed Parish Council chairman, nor did they recognize the Primate and Diocesan Council's decision and in the pursuing time, after listening to their ugly accusations, and disorderly and unchristian like conduct, I requested from Mrs. Tashjian, that the meeting be suspended.

Mrs. Karakashian and Mrs. Lambie made reference to the Diocesan Council and Primate as "who the hell are they" to suspend and re-appoint new Parish Council members, because it was their interpretation that they had no right under the Bi-laws.

And because of the total angered atmosphere and less than Christian spirit, especially by the two above mentioned women, Mrs. Tashjian complied with my request, and the meeting was suspended.

The members present were so informed that I would make special note of the occurrence, and that I would report my actions along with theirs to the Primate and Diocesan Council.

John Chakamian
CHAIRMAN PARISH COUNCIL