

C.Y.A.C. of America

The Concerned Youth of the Armenian Church is a committee composed of past and present St Nersess Summer Study Program students. One of our goals is to make the members of the Armenian community aware of the importance of having a center like Ouzoonian House for youth, and various religious and cultural activities. Although saving the Ouzoonian House is presently our primary interest, we share concern about issues affecting our church which range from liturgical reform to the shortage of clergy. The acute shortage of clergy in our Diocese dramatically represents the need for reimplementation of the St. Nersess seminary as a fulltime school. It is the Summer Study Conferences, a summer program of the seminary, to which we owe thanks for our raised awareness concerning these vital issues which we now address.

At this point, we would like to clarify our position on the Ouzoonian House. The Ouzoonian House has served as the physical center where the Summer Study conferences are held. We feel that it is imperative for the Armenian Church to have a center like the Ouzoonian House available for such programs. It must be understood, that the issue of importance is not necessarily maintaining the existing Ouzoonian House, but that our Diocese must have a permanent center, like the Ouzoonian House available to it. It is well known that the Summer Study Program is one of the few programs which is successful in providing a religious education for our youth. We feel strongly that the Ouzoonian House is extremely valuable not only to the Summer Study Program but also to the countless number of conferences, retreats and workshops which have not yet been initiated. We are aware of the various arguments put forth in favor of the sale of our Ouzoonian House, many of which are in fact, valid points. It must be pointed out however that the benefits of having a center like the Ouzoonian House override any arguments against having such a center. It is true that the cost of maintaining the present Ouzoonian House is great, but this does not mean that the cost of maintaining a similar center could not be met. Surely, the cost of having no center would be greater to our church in the long run. Without some facility many programs which may potentially be initiated may never become a reality. We are certain that money could be found from somewhere for the purchase of another more suitable facility we however, are aware of no such plans, and therefore are forced to oppose the proposed sale, until some such plans are made. Furthermore, we as Armenian Church members feel ostracized from the decision-making process into which we have absolutely no input. In fact, our efforts have been deemed by some of our more "responsible" church leaders as "foolishness".

In conclusion, it is our hope that many of our clergy, diocesan delegates, and concerned church members will take an interest in this cause. By expressing your support of having a center for conferences, retreats, and other activities, you will be taking a positive step towards encouraging and guaranteeing more involvement of our youth in the Armenian Church of America.

Please, do not ignore our cause; we can't afford to.

For more information on how you can help; Please write to:

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