

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
Cleveland, Ohio

Sunday, February 10, 1980

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church was called to order at 1:20 p.m. on Sunday, February 10, 1980. Following the invocation by Father Diran, Nat Arslanian, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed the parishioners. In his welcoming message, the Chairman suggested dispensing with reading each church auxiliary organization's report since the parishioners had the opportunity to previously review each in the Annual Report Booklet. Also, the omission of these reports would allow us extra time to discuss other matters.

The roll call of dues paying members was taken by Sam Mirakian, Treasurer of the Parish Council. The total number of eligible voting members present was 42, later increased to 47 by several late arrivals. Although less than one third of the total membership was present, it was the general consensus that this meeting be considered official.*

Martha Hacherian of the Nominating Committee presented the names for election of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary. The results of the secret ballot were as follows:

Chairman	- Ralph Chakerian	(32)
	- Robert Bagdasarian	(12)
Secretary	- Anita Aurslanian	(24)
	- Alice Hacherian	(19)

After the voting of the tivan, questions from the floor were raised concerning voting eligibility since the list of dues paying members indicated that some parishioners present had not met their minimum financial obligations. At this point, these members were given the opportunity to pay their remaining dues. Several other topics of discussion were also raised but held until later for discussion.

Jack Hacherian made the motion to omit the reading of the last Parish Assembly minutes since they appeared in the Annual Assembly Booklet. This motion was seconded by Alice Hacherian. The Secretary then read the minutes of the last Special Parish Assembly of January 20, 1980 regarding approval of the Senior Citizen's Housing Project. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes.

The Chairman suggested that the first order of business be changed to the election of the Parish Council since this was a major item of priority. The suggestion was agreed to by the assembly. The meeting was then turned over to Martha Hacherian of the Nominating Committee. This year, there were four outgoing members of the Parish Council: David Andonian, Krikor Ghazarian, Sam Mirakian, and Margaret Yeranian.

* Of the 133 eligible dues-paying members, altogether 47 members were present, including the late comers, which constituted a quorum, according to the By-Laws of our Diocese (presence over one-third of the eligible voting members.)

Those remaining on the Parish Council are: Nat Arslanian, Meshac Aurslanian, Alan Borazanian, Armand Kazaros, and George Sakian. The Nominating Committee presented the names of four candidates for Parish Council membership. Upon the declination of a candidate, nominations were made from the floor with two of them accepted. A vote was taken by secret ballot with the following results:

Armen Asadourian	(47)*	* - denotes those
Eric Ohanian	(46)*	elected to
Jack Hatchadorian	(40)*	office
Florence Karoghlanian	(27)	
Kevork Arslanian	(27) / tie	

A tie-breaking vote was taken resulting in 21 votes for Florence Karoghlanian*, 16 votes for Kevork Arslanian.

Four candidates were submitted for the Auditing Committee of which three were required to fill the committee. A vote taken by secret ballot showed the following results:

Grace Arslanian	(34)*
Jennie Kapoudjian	(35)*
Sam Mirakian	(33)*
Jack Hacherian	(22)

Four candidates were submitted for the Nominating Committee of which three were required to fill the committee. A vote taken by secret ballot showed the following results:

Kevork Arslanian	(37)*
Thelma Bagdasarian	(39)*
Margaret Semarjian	(27)*
Mona Karoghlanian	(21)

While the Nominating Committee counted votes, the assembly proceeded with the review of each auxiliary organization's report as follows:

- Pastor's Annual Report - No discussion
- Parish Council's Annual Report - Nat Arslanian defined the accomplished "establishment of a lawn care program" as weed killing, fertilizing, etc.
- Parish Council's Annual Financial Reports - Jack Hacherian pointed out that the report for the 1979 Checking Account and Interest Earnings did not reflect the year's interest in the total. The Treasurer clarified and corrected the error. Since the auxiliary organizations have not been submitting their annual financial reports to the Auditing Committee, Nat Arslanian suggested these reports be submitted annually with the expense books for auditing. Father Diran suggested the Auditing Committee be responsible for contacting each organization's treasurer for the report. Nat

Arslanian also told the assembly that the proposed budget of 1979 was not included in this year's booklet for comparison to that of 1980 because many expenses were not duplicated this year or their categorization differed from that of last year. Also, Sam Mirakian elaborated on the \$1,029.82 sum entered under "Miscellaneous, Books, Fees, etc." for the Disbursements for 1979. Expenses under this category were for a Memorial Dinner, books, and parish subscriptions for literature (to name a few).

- Ladies Auxiliary - No discussion
- Armenian Women's Guild - No discussion
- ACYOA Cleveland Chapter - No discussion
- Armenian Church Choir - No discussion
- Armenian Church Sunday School - No discussion
- Diocesan Delegates' Report - No discussion

The next item for discussion was the approval of the projected Budget for 1980. The \$4,800.00 for Off Premise Rental Income was defined as rent of the property on Payne Avenue for which the church realizes \$400/month in rental payments. The assembly was also told by Alan Borazanian that a new contract has been drafted for Pasquale Caterers to make them exclusive to our Hall. David Andonian made the motion to increase annual dues from \$45 per year to \$52 per year in 1980 -- based on a donation of \$1 each Sunday. His motion was seconded by Florence Karoghlanian. This was then modified in consideration for our senior citizens who's dues would be decreased near the \$30 per year range, but to be determined by the Parish Council. The assembly voted to accept this. On the same subject of dues, the Parish Council Treasurer will be personally contacting members who have not paid their full dues to clarify their voting eligibility. The Chairman declared that only those members fully paid will appear in the future annual reports under Dues Paying Members. After much discussion, the assembly voted to accept the pastor's \$1,500 increase in stipend (to equate to \$14,000 for 1980), with the understanding that it was a 12% cost of living -- not merit -- increase. It was questioned whether the other benefits of the pastor would increase his cost of living percentage increase, specifically the RITA tax that the church pays for the pastor. Krikor Ghazarian made the motion that Father Diran be responsible to pay the tax himself. The motion was seconded by Lucille Andonian but defeated by the assembly's vote of 20 against, 14 for. After considerable discussion of the \$3,000 proposed to improve the Parish House, Sue Mirakian made the motion to hold a Special Parish Assembly to discuss whether we should repair or raze the Parish House. The motion was seconded and passed by the assembly. Alan Borazanian made the motion to transfer the \$3,000 to the Long Range Planning Committee to hold with no spending until it is decided what to do with the money. This motion was seconded and passed by the assembly with a vote of 23 for, 5 against. After this discussion, the assembly voted to approve the projected Budget.

While discussion of Old Business was being entertained on the floor, Florence Karoghlanian made the motion to have the Pastor's Annual Report in both Armenian and English in the next Annual Report Booklet. The motion was seconded and approved by the assembly. Kevork Arslanian made the motion to authorize Parish Council to purchase a new Armenian typewriter at a reasonable cost. This motion was also seconded and approved by the assembly. On the same line, discussion was entertained for the purchase of a copy machine to benefit all church organizations, however, no definite plans were established.

In the area of New Business, Kevork Arslanian, Diocesan Delegate, presented the Chairman with a letter from the Primate concerning procedures for amending by-laws and making proposals, which he read to the assembly. At this point, the floor was turned over to David Andonian of the Long Range Planning Committee for the review of that organization's report. It was brought to our attention that this committee is an extension of the Parish Council -- not a stand-alone committee. David Andonian presented the assembly with two drawings of the proposed expansion of the Cultural Hall. A picnic pavilion, youth center (basement), two separate pantries, a work (repair) shop and doubling in size of the main room are only a few of the proposed new features for the Hall. David estimated the project to cost near \$215,000. The Long Range Planning Committee stressed that if the Senior Citizen's Housing Project would have passed, the sale of our back property would have given us a substantial sum of money toward the Hall project. David also told the assembly that he inquired further as to the Armenian's possibility of having a government-funded project for ourselves but he was told that nothing was available for 1980.

Nat Arslanian briefed the assembly on the many problems incurred with the property on Payne Avenue. In addition to the tenant's tardy rent payments, we have no liability insurance -- if someone were to get hurt, the church would be fully responsible. David Andonian made the motion to let the Parish Council sell it or do whatever they feel would be in the best interest of the Armenian community. If the property was not sold within four weeks, we would purchase the costly liability insurance. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the assembly. Jack Hacherian suggested to use the \$3,000 from the Parish House project to buy the insurance. Discussion was also brought up as to reducing the Parish Council from nine to seven members for the next election. Although many parishioners had left the assembly, most remaining were in favor of this idea.

~~Following the adjournment and benediction by Father Diran, the meeting concluded at 6:15 p.m.~~ The adjournment of the meeting was at 6:15 p.m. following the Pastor's Message and Benediction.

Respectfully submitted:

Anita Aurslanian
Anita Aurslanian
Assembly Secretary

Diran Papazian

Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian
President

Ralph Chakerian
Ralph Chakerian
Assembly Chairman