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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Sunday, February 27, 1983

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church of Cleveland was called to order at 1:25 p.m., Sunday, February 27, 1983, at the Cultural Hall, presided by Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, Pastor of the Church. Following the Invocation by Fr. Diran, the Chairman of the Parish Council, Robert Bagdasarian, welcomed the parishioners.

A roll call of dues-paying members was taken by Florence Karoghlanian, Treasurer of the Parish Council. Forty-eight (48) members were present out of a total membership of 101 eligible voting members. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the number in attendance would constitute a quorum.

The meeting was then turned over to the Nominating Committee comprised of Lucille Andonian, Sue Mirakian and Louise Ohanian. Sue Mirakian presented the names for Assembly Chairman and Secretary. Ballots were passed out for the election, with the following results:

<u>Chairman</u>		<u>Secretary</u>	
*Martha Hacherian	(35)	*Alice Hacherian	(29)
Wanda Venditti	(13)	Anita Arpajian	(19)

The reading of the Minutes of the 1982 Parish Assembly was dispensed with according to a motion passed and were accepted as presented in the Annual Report Book.

Next on the agenda was the election of members to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. The three outgoing Parish Council members are Nat Arslanian, Alan Borazanian and George Sakian. Five names were presented by the Nominating Committee for Parish Council. Eileen Hacherian was nominated from the floor, increasing the number of candidates to six. Following are results of the election by secret ballot:

<u>Parish Council</u>			
*Nazar Mirakian	(41)	Helen Atkian	(23)
*George Sakian	(34)	Eileen Hacherian	(7)
*John Borazanian	(32)	Kevork Arslanian	(4)

Six candidates were presented for the Nominating Committee, with the following election results:

<u>Nominating Committee</u>			
*Grace Arslanian	(39)	Suzanne Hatchadorian	(22)
*Kathie Arslanian	(25)	Alan Borazanian	(20)
*Mary Arslanian	(24)	Margaret Semarjian	(13)

Three candidates were presented for the Auditing Committee. John Benneian, Martha Hacherian and Jennie Kapoudjian were nominated from the floor. Election results were as follows:

<u>Auditing Committee</u>			
*Cheryl Asadourian	(36)	Leigh Walton	(20)
*Jack Hacherian	(36)	John Benneian	(16)
*Martha Hacherian	(26)	Jennie Kapoudjian	(6)

*Elected

As has been the practice in our parish, the Pastor's Report, the Parish Council Report, the Diocesan Delegate's Report and the reports of the parish auxiliary organizations are published in the Annual Report Book for review by the members prior to the Annual Parish Assembly.

Regarding the Pastor's Report, Kevork Arslanian requested information concerning the status of Fr. Diran's assignment in our parish. Mr. Arslanian also requested a status report of the search committee appointed by Parish Council to locate a new priest. Fr. Diran responded, explaining to the Assembly that he had discussed this situation with the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, and since there was no real pressure for him to leave the Cleveland parish, he agreed to remain until the appropriate time for the relocation of his family. In response to a question as to whether this was in writing, Bob Bagdasarian, Parish Council Chairman, advised that he had just received word from the Primate that Fr. Diran would remain in Cleveland until probably June 1985.

Commenting on the Parish Council Report, Bob Bagdasarian noted that in 1982 a deficit resulted in the financial report. Since our operating expenses increase each year, members were urged to be more generous with their time and money to avoid a deficit in the future.

Bob also pointed out that Fr. Diran had not only served our parish for 10 years, but that he was to be congratulated on the anniversary of the 25th year of his ordination. This anniversary will be observed in our parish in 1983 on a community-wide basis.

Concerning money-raising projects, Bob advised that plans were underway for a Reverse Raffle in April and that the Parish Council had applied for a bingo license. The bingo would be conducted at an outside party center and a \$500 weekly profit could be realized in addition to the profit from the concessions. This project will require volunteers.

The Parish Council Chairman then thanked Florence Goekjian, our Diocesan Delegate, for her participation at the Annual Diocesan Assembly and also her interest and contributions at Parish Council meetings. Kevork Arslanian suggested that the parish make an effort to increase the membership in our parish so that we may again have two Diocesan Delegates.

The Parish Council's financial reports were discussed. A question was raised concerning the \$5,000 donation to the Tekeyan School in Beirut from the sale of the Odian property. The financial report will reflect that this donation is from the sale of the property. As a further clarification, Alan Borazanian advised that the property was actually sold for over \$30,000, but that \$26,975.58 was received during 1982. Kevork Arslanian asked that the Parish Council consider the addition of Mr. Khoren Odian's name to the list of benefactors of the church.

In an effort to clarify the financial report, a suggestion was made that in the future the assets of the church and the interest drawn should be included as capital fund separate from the operating income. Sam Mirakian made a motion, which was seconded by Armen Asadourian, that we accept the Financial Report of the Parish Council as submitted. This motion was passed by majority vote.

The next order of business was the Proposed Budget for 1983. Jennie Kapoudjian requested an explanation of the disbursement of \$1,800 for the salary of the Property Manager. Alan Borazanian, who serves as Property Manager, responded that it was his function to perform the legal work involved with the service contracts for maintenance of the hall, negotiation and renewal of contracts, scheduling of the hall with the caterer, hall re-decorating terms, etc. The Parish Council has asked Alan to assume this responsibility at a token salary of \$1,800.

Questions were also raised as to why the \$2,730.64 from the Ladies Auxiliary for the church door crosses and the \$10,000 interest were not reflected as part of the proposed income. This would bring the total income to approximately \$84,000 rather than \$71,325 as reported. There was some discussion regarding these entries. A motion followed and was seconded that the projected budget for 1983 be accepted at \$71,325. This motion was passed by majority vote.

Continuing with the agenda, the Assembly Chairman provided an opportunity for the Assembly to discuss matters reflected in the following reports:

1. Diocesan Delegate
2. Ladies Auxiliary
3. Armenian Women's Guild
4. ACYOA Seniors
5. ACYOA Juniors
6. Armenian Church Choir
7. Armenian Church School

Anna Karayan, Superintendent of the Church School, was commended for her efforts to keep the Church School functioning. The school has experienced a drop in enrollment of students this year. Church School graduates are encouraged to join the choir, serve on the altar and in other capacities. Parent interest in the school was emphasized as a necessary ingredient to increase the enrollment. Lucille Andonian suggested that the Church School institute a study group for former students. The Superintendent requested assistance in locating an appropriate individual and subject matter to start this project.

Cheryl Asadourian suggested that the parents assume the responsibility of taking their children into church on religious holidays such as Easter and Christmas. In this way, the work of the school staff would be relieved and both the parents and children would benefit from attending services together. The general consensus was that this appeared to be an excellent suggestion for the Church School to consider.

No old business was presented by the Assembly.

Several matters were introduced under new business. Florence Goekjian requested information on the organization of a Men's Club. This suggestion was introduced by Fr. Diran last year. Fr. Diran, Nat Arslanian, Armen Asadourian and Jack Hacherian outlined the advantages of having such a group in our parish but they have not been successful in organizing it as yet. Jack stated that financially our church is sound, but that we lack the physical strength and should seriously follow through in that area. Parish Council will again give consideration to the formation of a Men's Club.

Anna Karayan inquired as to the status of the basketball equipment which was to be installed for the use of the young people in our parish. It appears that the project was not completed due to a breakdown in communication. Bob Bagdasarian assured the Assembly that the equipment would be in place by June.

Thelma Bagdasarian asked about the dates of the downtown All Nations Festival and whether our parish plans to participate. We had been previously informed that the Festival was scheduled for June 15-17, 1983. Martha Hacherian will confirm these dates.

Lucine Mirakian asked if copies of the Lenten Sunrise Service could be provided since it is so beautiful. Fr. Diran indicated that this could be undertaken as a future project.

A question concerning the use of weekly collection envelopes was raised by George Sakian as over half the parishioners make lump-sum payments. To defray printing expenses, it was suggested that plain envelopes be used. Another suggestion was made to eliminate the envelope system. After some discussion, a vote was taken and the majority felt that the system should be modified next year. The Parish Council will take this into consideration.

George Sakian also commented on the current practice of distributing candles to the members of the family requesting Requiem Services. He stated that occasionally it was difficult to determine who the family members were. A motion was made by Armen Asadourian, seconded by Wanda Venditti, that we completely discontinue the use of candles for Requiem Services to avoid possible damage to the pews and floors as a result of wax build-up. The motion was defeated by majority vote. The majority of those present favored the current practice.

Kevork Arslanian acknowledged that the parish had many matters for discussion during the Annual Assembly and perhaps should consider a mid-year meeting. The Parish Council Chairman responded that a meeting was being planned for mid-term for the purpose of discussing the status of our parish house.

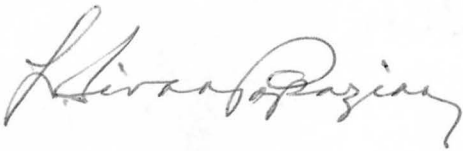
With the conclusion of the business of the Assembly, the Assembly Chairman requested the Pastor's Message. Florence Karoghlanian suggested that the Pastor's Message be scheduled earlier on the agenda at future meetings so that more members would be in attendance to hear it. Fr. Diran acknowledged that the Parish Assembly covered many business items and that a mid-year meeting was advisable. He expressed thanks to the outgoing members and congratulated the newly elected members of the Parish Council, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee. He expressed thanks to the Assembly Chairman and Secretary for the fine job they performed during the course of the session. As expressed at past assemblies, Fr. Diran emphasized the need to serve the Church and the importance of church attendance. He stated that the parishioners should be more patient and remain until the business of the Assembly has been concluded and the meeting adjourned.

The Parish Assembly was adjourned at 5:50 p.m., following the Benediction by Fr. Diran.

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Hacherian
Assembly Secretary



Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian
President



Martha Hacherian
Assembly Chairman