

M I N U T E S  
SS Joachim & Anne Armenian Apostolic Church

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

January 26, 1997

The Annual Parish Assembly as called for in the by-laws, convened in the church hall, 12600 S. Ridgeland Avenue, Palos Heights, Illinois on January 26, 1997.

Meeting opened with prayer led by Der Hayr Tavit Boyajian at 12:30 p.m. Roll called by Chairman Dennis VanderMeer indicated 61 of 114 members were present, thereby comprising a quorum.

Mr. Garbis Meguerian was nominated to act as chairman of the meeting and accepted. Mrs. Lottie Mikaelian was nominated and accepted the position of secretary.

Minutes of the January 1996 meeting were available to the membership for perusal. Mr. Jack Cholakian moved to accept the minutes as presented. A second by Dr. Raffi Hovanessian. Motion carried.

Chairman advised of a deviation of the agenda and requested Mrs. Karen Nalbandian, chairlady of the Nominating Committee hand out Ballots to the membership for the offices of Trustee, Nominating and Auditing Committees.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sahagian made a motion to call for nominations at this point of the meeting. Mr. Kegham Giragosian seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

Nominations for office of trustee took place. Mrs. Elizabeth Sahagian moved nominations be closed. Seconded by Mrs. Annette Sultanian. Unanimously carried.

Chair called for nominations from the floor for the Nominating Committee. Mrs. Sonia Harlan moved nominations be closed. A second by Mrs. Elizabeth Sahagian. So moved.

Chair called for floor nominations for the Auditing Committee. Mrs. Sonia Harlan moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Mrs. Virginia Bogosian. Motion carried.

Chairman called upon Der Hayr Tavit Boyajian to review his pastor's report. Mr. Zareh Avedoumian made a motion to accept the report as presented. A second by Mrs. Annette Sultanian. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Robert Auer moved and requested it be noted in the minutes that Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Dennis VanderMeer be recognized and thanked for his service and accomplishments in this capacity during this past year. A second by Mr. Jack Cholakian. So moved with a hearty round of applause.

Mr. Dennis VanderMeer presented the Parish Council's report and verbally added his thanks to the younger membership for their increased participation in church activities. Also noted that parish assembly attendance has increased yearly, indicating greater interest in the church, and a willingness to work together. He earnestly hoped the membership pay particular attention to the cost to maintain the church and reflect on what is necessary to keep the church viable and secure in the future. He thanked the council for their cooperation and efforts.

Chair called on Mrs. Elizabeth Sahagian, Chairlady of the Women's Guild to answer any question regarding their report. There being none, she introduced Mrs. Anna Giragosian, Treasurer, who then presented a check to the Parish Council in the amount of \$12,000.00 on behalf of the guild membership, which consists of 27 women.

Discussion followed concerning new bookkeeping procedures. Mr. Paul Mardoian explained that monies of all the organizations is now being channeled into one larger account, affording increased earnings. However, each organization is to maintain it's own financial records. The Women's Guild will be afforded a cash working fund.

Due to a misunderstanding, Mrs. Susan Semerdjian, upon submitting funds of the Senior's Club, also turned in their books and dispensed with keeping financial records. The Auditing Committee, at this point, instructed the Senior's Club, as well as all other organizations to continue to maintain bookkeeping procedures. So moved by Mr. Andrew Sahagian and seconded by Mrs. Rosie Yeretsian.

#### Sunday School Report:

Mrs. Annette Sultanian, on behalf of the children and parents, thanked Mrs. Alice Boyajian for all her efforts and guidance. All agreed with a round of applause.

#### Choir Report:


Mrs. Susan Mardoian thanked Mrs. Martha Auer, organist, as well as her fellow members and the church membership for its support.

Mr. Greg Srabian moved to accept the following organizational reports: Guild - Sunday School - Choir and Seniors; A second by Mr. Jay Harlan. Motion carried.

Der Hayr Tavit Boyajian addressed the assembly, touching on the following:

Thanked all for their dedication to the church. Also, Mr. Dennis VanderMeer for all his efforts, stating, it had been a pleasure and privilege to work with him. Acknowledged Mrs. Sona Doumanian and Mrs. Virginia Bogosian for their time consuming treasurer's work. Alice Boyajian, Sunday School Superintendent, for all she

has contributed and continues to do. Mrs. Susan Mardoian for leading the Choir. Also, called to our attention the Survey Results of the 1995 Membership Survey which was correlated in 1996.

Father Tavit apologized for overlooking the ~~efforts~~ <sup>omitting the name of</sup> of Mrs. Jennifer Volpe, ~~in her work with the newly formed Young Couples Group.~~ <sup>from the new members list.</sup> T.B. \* 

ACYOA Juniors, which fell between the cracks, is now being revitalized and planning a regional retreat. Mrs. Jennifer Volpe has agreed to <sup>be</sup> co-ordinator for this group.

Informed us of a new vital program, i.e. a Children's Bible Study.

He stated 1997 has been designated as the Year of the Mission and enumerated a number of programs being instituted and called on all to collectively understand the mission of the church.

Chairman called on Treasurer Mrs. Sona Doumanian for her report. She stated that because of the new bookkeeping procedures instituted in June, she would be available for consultation to afford a smooth transition of the process. She thanked Mrs. Virginia Bogosian for all her assistance. Mrs. Rosie Yeretsian moved, seconded by Mrs. Annette Sultanian to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

Auditing Chairman, Mr. Charles Terzian reported the committee audited the financial records of all organizations and found them to be in good order. He thanked Mrs. Sona Doumanian for her exemplary work.

Mrs. Sona Doumanian submitted the Council's Budget for 1997, stating the balance on hand as of December 1, 1996 amounted to \$34,497.35. Mr. Zareh Avedoumanian moved to accept the budget with a second by Mr. Jay Harlan. Motion carried.

At this point of the meeting, voting took place by secret ballot for positions of Trustee, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee. 59 Ballots were counted indicating the following were elected:

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER

Virginia Bogosian  
Gary Mazian  
Paul Simonian  
Brian Nigohosian

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Garbis Meguerian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sonia Harlan  
Peggy Mason  
Gail Santucci

*Martha Huel*

Mrs. Virginia Bogosian requested time to address the assembly. She commended the council for its diligence and efforts under the able leadership of Mr. Dennis VanderMeer. Also stated some of our sister churches appear to be envious of our church attendance and activities. She asked for a round of applause as appreciation for the untiring efforts and daily availability of Alice Boyajian and Anna Giragosian. Anna, especially for undertaking solely the co-ordinating and seeing to the day to day operations of Hye Camp which accomodates campers from all corners of the U.S.

*She also thanked the pastor for his work during the year.*

*T.B.*

*\*  
LM  
GKH*

New Business:

Council Chairman, Dennis VanderMeer addressed the assembly concerning Membership Dues which remained the same for 15 years, and calling to our attention the fact, a large percentage of the dues is remitted to the Diocese. He recommended membership vote to increase the annual dues, thereby increasening revenue for the maintenance of our church. Mr. Jay Harlan moved to increase the annual dues to \$180.00per member. Seconded by Dr. Hovanessian. Membership was called on to vote by raising of hands. Vote indicated 27 nays - 14 yeas. Motion denied.

Chairman opened floor for discussion of Stewardship. Mr. Greg Srabian recommended a committee be formed to contact members which have not lived up to their pledges.

Time was afforded Mr. Dennis VanderMeer to introduce two proposals which the <sup>parish</sup> council had formulated, and which were to be forwarded to the Diocese (copies attached hereto) requesting Archbishop Khajag Barsamian appoint a special committee to consider same.

*T.B. \*  
LM  
GKH*

1. Other churches not duly paying dues to the Diocese.
2. Limiting terms of the diocesan delegates

Dr. Hovanessian stated the Diocesan Council has the authority to make the final decision, and, therefore, these proposals should be directed to the Council rather than to the Archbishop. *Amended motion passed*

*T.B. \*  
LM  
GKH*

Richard Nalbandian had moved seconded by Sona Doumanian, the Parish Council forward these proposals to the Diocese. The motion was modified to indicate the Diocesan Council appoint a special committee to consider these proposals. Richard Nalbandian then moved, seconded by Elizabeth Sahagian to close discussion on the proposals. Motion carried. A motion was introduced by Paul Mardoian to present these proposals to the Diocesan Council. *Assembly - T.B. \** A second by Mr. Richard Nalbandian. Motion unanimously approved.

*LM  
GKH*

Floor was open for any other new business. Mr. Halajian asked how and why the Parish Council became involved in the pricing of the Senior's Luncheon. Chair called upon Mrs. Alice Boyajian, who is in charge of these luncheons to address the assembly in answer. In her comments she mentioned that she along with her co-workers had decided, that based on the prices of food items in today's market, and the unlimited beverages available to patrons, the price increase was deemed necessary and reasonable.

After discussion, Sonia Harlan moved, seconded by Sona Doumanian, the price of the luncheon be fixed at \$8.00 per person.  
Motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the assembly, Mr. Robert Auer moved to adjourn. A second by Sona Doumanian. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 3:30 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Der Hayr Boyajian.

Galen H. Mejeorian  
Chairman

Leticia Mikaelian  
Secretary

Rev. Fr. Javit