

**ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1991**

I. INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER

The Assembly was called to order by Parish Council Chairman Vahram Fantazian at 8:15 p.m. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian offered the invocation.

II. VERIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM

Mr. Fantazian reported that the members present had been verified, and he declared a quorum. He reviewed the rules and regulations which govern Parish Assemblies.

III. ELECTIONS

Mr. Edward Haig Korkoian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, identified the positions to be elected and explained the voting procedure. He then presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman.

Arthur S. Mardigian
Dr. Edward Sarkisian

Mr. Fantazian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the nominations.

The nominee for Secretary of the Day, Judy K. Hovnan, was introduced. Nominations were requested from the floor. There being none, a motion was made to close the nominations. It was seconded and passed. A motion was then entertained to elect Ms. Hovnan as Secretary of the Day by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed, and Ms. Hovnan was invited to assume her duties as Secretary. A motion was then made to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches of the nominees for Chairman of the Day. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Korkoian presented the candidates for Parish Council (five to be elected):

Onnik Boyajian
Alex Chavdarian
Peter Egigian*
Vahram Fantazian
Suren Hovsepian

Joanne Nassar
Leonard Ohanian
Kazar Terterian
Richard Vahratian*

Mr. Korkoian noted that ten candidates were originally listed in the Torch Bearer; however, two of the candidates have since expressed their inability to run for Parish Council for business reasons. He stated that the Committee was able to replace only one of the slots with another candidate, Mr. Vahram Fantazian; therefore, there are only nine candidates presented. Mr. Fantazian then asked for nominations from the floor. There being no additional nominations, a motion was made to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was then made to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches. This motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Korkoian then presented the candidates for Nominating Committee (five to be elected):

Rosalind Astourian	Garry Javizian
Gregory Boyajian	Dr. Harry Joboulian
Linda Brunette	Richard Kehyian
Barbara Haroutunian	Laura Negosian
Gregory Jamian	Douglas Takesian

Nominations from the floor were solicited. There being none, a motion was made to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was then entertained to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches. The motion was seconded and passed.

The candidates for Auditor were then presented (three to be elected):

Paul Andonian
John Bahadurian*
Roseann Manoogian
Thomas Stamboulian

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches was then made, seconded, and passed.

There were 290 people present at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Korkoian presented the nominees for Diocesan Delegate (seven to be elected):

Arthur Apkarian	Dr. Neshon Ohanian
Martin Cholakian*	Dr. Dennis Papazian*
Vahram Fantazian	John K. Semizian*
Sooren Gozmanian	Andrew Tarpinian
Martin Manoogian	Harry Terzian*
Arthur Mardigian*	Carl Varadian
Richard Norsigian	Dr. Gary Zamanigian*

Nominations were requested from the floor. There were no nominations. A motion was made to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. A motion was then entertained to dispense with the reading of biographical sketches. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Vahram Fantazian thanked the Nominating Committee and its Chairman, Mr. Edward Haig Korkoian, for the efforts they made in presenting the slate of candidates. Mr. Fantazian noted for the record that the Committee made every effort to obtain the number of candidates required in the bylaws for all the positions presented.

IV. ELECTION RESULTS – CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY

Mr. Fantazian announced that the Chairman of the Day is Dr. Edward Sarkisian and asked him to assume his position. Dr. Sarkisian thanked the Assembly and presented the Agenda to the Assembly.

V. MINUTES OF THE 1990 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Secretary was asked to read the Minutes. A motion was made by John Bahadurian to dispense with the reading of the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Daniel Shahan and passed. Mr. Fantazian asked for any additions or corrections to the Minutes. There being none, Mr. Daniel Shahan moved that the Minutes stand as printed. The motion was seconded by John Bahadurian and passed.

VI. 1990 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair entertained questions and comments with regard to the Annual Report.

Mr. Harry Andonian commented on page 6 of the Report stating that it should not have been addressed the way it was. With regard to page 8, he noted that the second paragraph indicates we are going through some modernization. He questioned whether the modernization will include facilities for the handicapped. Mr. Vahram Fantazian responded in the affirmative. Mr. Andonian commented on page 13 asking if the Bibles sent to Armenia were, in fact, taken by Etchmiadsin. Fr. Paren responded that they were taken originally but were later distributed to the people of Armenia.

Mrs. Violet Cholakian commented on the \$2,260 in registration fees for children who attend church school (page 46). In 1989, she addressed a parent-teacher meeting on this subject opposing the charging of a fee for Christian education. She felt with a Parish operating budget of almost \$800,000, we should be able to afford to assist in financing the education of

our children. She commented that the expenditure of \$25,000 for church school office renovation and furniture and \$10,000 for a chapel altar, makes it even more unacceptable to her that families be charged a fee for Christian education. She recommended to the Parish Council that it discuss this matter at a future meeting to determine the ways in which this Parish can fund the church school without charging its children and their parents.

Mrs. Joanne Nassar questioned page 33 under expenditures, line item 15 (Senior Citizen Luncheon) noting that the amount of \$5,636 was carried over as a total of \$11,272. Mrs. Nassar was advised that questions and comments were being entertained only through page 19.

Mrs. Nassar recalled that she spoke last year suggesting that the names of the volunteers who support and give their time for sports and recreation be identified in the Annual Report. She said it was noted in the Minutes; however, this year the entire sports program is not mentioned at all. Fr. Paren responded that the Activities Committee had not prepared their report by the time this Annual Report went to press.

Mrs. Nassar asked about the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Report on page 19. She noted that there is no indication of the disbursement of these funds anywhere else in the report.

Mr. Richard Vahratian explained that the funds received from this source go into the Major Maintenance of the facilities and the church. He added that a portion of the \$62,422 went for the renovation of the church facility.

Mrs. Nassar made a motion that future Annual Reports include a detailed accounting of the disbursements from the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Account and that the purpose for the disbursements be stated. The motion was seconded by Walter Negosian. Discussion commenced.

There was a call to vote on the motion. The motion was seconded. The motion made by Mrs. Nassar was restated, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Mr. Ara Haig commented with regard to Artifacts on page 13. He said we should have a systematic list of what we have in our church. Fr. Paren responded that as of this year the list will be on the computer. The list will include prices. Fr. Paren stated that the list should not be published.

Mr. Cholakian questioned the Financial Statements for the Mr. & Mrs. Society and the Church School (pages 42 & 46). He noted that the beginning balance as of November 30, 1989, identifies a different bank than the ending balance of the previous year. He suggested that any changes of banks should be so noted and that the auditors should be responsible for verifying this information. Mr. Peter Egigian advised that the funds for the Mr. & Mrs. Society were transferred and suggested that Marianne Dardarian could advise when the transfer occurred. Mrs. Dardarian responded that last year's audited report was incorrect, because the money was transferred in 1988 to NBD.

Mr. Vahratian responded with regard to the Church School report on page 46. He explained that this was a computer error. The bank reflected as of November 30, 1989 should be the National Bank of Detroit.

Dr. Papazian commented on pages 18 and 50, regarding the Fine Arts Committee. He was the auditor of the report on page 18 and noted that the inventory he provided was not included in this report. Fr. Paren responded that there are other Church organizations whose inventories are not included on their balance sheets. He stated, however, that if the Fine Arts Committee chooses, it may list its inventory in the written report section of the Annual Report.

Mrs. Marianne Dardarian commented on the Building Report (pages 16 and 17). She asked why the percentage of non-Armenians using the Hall has decreased considerably. Mr. Armen Hovnanian responded that Armenian rentals increased; however, the decrease in usage since two years ago is due to factors such as the economy, new competition in our marketing area, and the fact that the complex has gotten older.

Mr. Fantazian commented that the Parish Council realizes that rentals are down. He advised that plans for renovation are being made, and when ready, they will be reported in detail at a Special Parish Assembly.

Mrs. Carol Palaian questioned the \$10,000 expense for a Chapel Altar (page 46). She felt that the chapel is not being used by the Church School and asked why the Church School is responsible for that expense. Fr. Paren advised that two departments from the Church School, the Primary and Junior departments, will be returning to this building in a few weeks, and the chapel will be used by them. Mrs. Palaian questioned whether it is true that the chapel will also be used for other functions, such as small weddings; and if so, why is the Church School paying for it exclusively. Fr. Paren indicated the primary organization using it would be the Church School.

Mr. Jack Kavlakian noted the \$25,000 expenditure for Church School furniture and office renovation and the fact that there are only 294 students enrolled. He asked who authorized this expense and whether the Parish Council was consulted. Fr. Paren responded that the Church School board authorized the purchase and that the Parish Council was not involved. Fr. Paren said the Church School exclusively raised the money over a period of years for that specific purpose. He added that the old furniture was over 30 years old and did not have enough storage space or work areas.

Mrs. Denise Karakashian asked if all Church School students would eventually be brought back to this building. Fr. Paren answered that there is, unfortunately, not enough space in this building for all the students. Mrs. Karakashian asked why the Church School had to pay for the chapel altar. Fr. Paren responded that the Church School at one time paid for the baptismal font; he wondered what more appropriate use for the funds now than for the chapel

altar. Mrs. Karakashian commented that she was pleased to hear that the primary students will be back in this building and that the chapel will be functional again.

A motion was made by John Bahadurian to accept the 1990 Annual Report. It was seconded by Mr. Saznek Betrosian and passed.

VII. REVIEW OF THE 1990 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mr. Peter Egigian and Mr. Richard Vahratian presented the 1990 Financial Report (pages 24 and 25). Mr. Harry Andonian questioned the difference between \$20,649.24 and \$34,257.30 on page 25 with regard to the AGBU-Alexanian Bequest. Mr. Martin Manoogian, who had prepared the balance sheet, volunteered to give the explanation. Mr. Manoogian stated that the first figure is the cash received thus far, and the second figure is the AGBU share of the total bequest.

Mr. Edmond Azadian added that he and Mr. Bahadurian are co-trustees of Mrs. Alexanian's estate. The house sold was not in her bequest. She had signed a Quit Claim Deed, and upon her demise, the house was sold. Her wish was to split it 50/50 between the Church and the School. The Church was kind enough to handle the finances; that is why it appears as it does in the report.

Mr. Arthur Mardigian questioned the \$102,720 for Contracts Receivable in the General Fund. He was advised that it was Neighborhood Development money. Mr. Mardigian noted a \$1,000 discrepancy in that amount and the amount noted on page 15. Mr. Mardigian then asked about the \$60,000 in Accounts Receivable. Mr. Vahratian responded that it was monies expended to pay for renovation which will be paid back to the Church. Mr. Mardigian then questioned the \$35,671.29 for Land Contract Receivable. Mr. Vahratian said it is for the house on Winora that was sold during the year. Mr. Mardigian asked about the \$103,253.38 in Accounts Payable. Mr. Vahratian said that this was monies given to the Church by different individuals for different projects that haven't come due yet.

Mr. Mardigian then asked if, based on this report, it is true that the Parish Council has less than \$100,000 with which to operate. Mr. Vahratian responded affirmatively.

A motion was made to close discussion on the Balance Sheet. The motion was seconded by Arthur Barsamian. Motion carried.

Dr. Papazian made a motion to accept the Balance Sheet as of December 31, 1990. The motion was seconded and carried.

VIII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 1991 BUDGET

Mr. Armen Hovnanian clarified Mrs. Nassar's notation regarding an error on page 33. He indicated that the amount of \$5,636 should have been carried across the page instead of the \$11,272 figure. He added, however, that the total figure is correct.

Mr. Sooren Gozmanian referred to page 57, line 53, Appropriation to the AGBU School. He said that we give the AGBU \$12,000 and AGBU gives St. John's \$12,000 for using the Recreation Center, etc., and this adds to a washout. He reminded the parishioners that one of the bylaws of our Diocese is to establish moral and financial support to various schools of the Parish. In that spirit, Mr. Gozmanian moved that line item 23 be increased to \$22,000, which will realize a \$10,000 donation to the school on behalf of our parish. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Cholakian suggested that if an increase is recommended in expenditures, it should be the responsibility of the maker of the motion to offset it.

Mr. Gozmanian then added to his motion his recommendation that the following items be increased to offset the expense: Yughakin by \$2,000, Hokehankist by \$1,000, Sacraments by \$3,000, and Gifts and Bequests by \$4,000. Discussion commenced.

Mr. Cholakian asked if the \$12,000 income from the AGBU school for the use of this building and recreation center appears under Line item 17 on the receipt side. The response was affirmative. Mr. Cholakian asked if the \$1,000 for the use of the school on Sundays and the additional donation to the AGBU school on line 23 was on the disbursement side. Fr. Paren responded that it all appears as a net item on line 17 (income). Line 23 (expense) is a gift.

Mr. Hovnanian commented on the motion specifically regarding Mr. Gozmanian's recommendations stating that the Parish Council evaluated each line item carefully and felt these items could not be increased. He said we have had a deficit for the last two years, and the Council is trying to balance the budget and replenish some of the \$160,000 losses for 1989 and 1990.

Mr. Mihran Hoplamazian commented that our future is our youth, not to balance the budget within so many years. If we bring the youngsters here, the deficit will be covered.

Mr. Guy Amboian noted that he was not opposed to the motion; however, he questioned what percentage of parents at the AGBU school are paid members of St. John's. He explained that his concern was the commitment of the parents of the children.

There was a motion to move to the question. It was seconded. A vote was taken on Mr. Gozmanian's motion. The motion was defeated. At the request of Dr. Papazian, the vote was recounted, and the motion was again defeated.

Mr. Edmond Azadian expressed his regret regarding the defeat of the motion. He stated that the church has defaulted in its mission to educate our youth.

Mrs. Carol Palaian responded to Mr. Azadian by saying she is concerned about the preservation of her heritage from the standpoint of the AGBU School; however, she is not so sure that the AGBU School is supportive of this church. Unless the two go hand in hand, we cannot support that dream from both ends.

Dr. Dennis Papazian moved to adopt the budget as presented. Mr. Arthur Barsamian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair recognized Kathy Mekjian. She advised that 8,235 senior citizen lunches were served last year, and the church subsidized 3,679 of the luncheons for a deficit of \$5,636. Ms. Mekjian then presented a motion on behalf of the Parish Council "to raise the Senior Citizens' luncheons from \$2.00 to \$3.00." The motion was seconded by John Bahadurian. Discussion commenced.

Mr. Sam Argnian proposed an amendment to the motion to charge \$2.00 for members and \$3.00 for non-members. There was no second to the motion. Discussion commenced regarding the proposal on the floor.

After considerable discussion regarding the motion on the floor, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mrs. Mary Ann Artinian asked the Parish Council Chairman how the concerns expressed by Joanne Nassar two years ago regarding our youth, our community, and our future are being addressed. She also asked that the Parish Council consider the concerns of the parishioners who have brought up issues tonight. Mr. Fantazian responded with regard to our youth. He said the Parish Council has debated this issue and felt the hiring of a Youth Coordinator was the best avenue to pursue. He said we should be seeing the fruits of her efforts in the next year.

Mr. Stepan Karougian made a motion that we start displaying the Armenian flag in the cultural hall like they do at the Kavookjian Hall and other churches. The Chair noted that all new business must be approved by the Assembly. A vote to accept this item for new business was taken and defeated.

Mr. Martin Manoogian was recognized. He recalled that he made a motion which was passed a few years ago to develop job descriptions for the Parish Council members. He explained that this would make the job of the Nominating Committee much easier. When asking someone to run for office, they will be then be aware of the responsibilities of the

office. This item will be pursued by the Parish Council. No additional New Business was introduced.

X. ELECTION RESULTS

At this time, it was reported that 314 parishioners had cast their ballots.

The Chair declared that the following individuals were elected to the Parish Council:

Peter Egigian
Vahram Fantazian
Joanne Nassar
Kazar Terterian
Richard Vahratian

The Chair declared that the following individuals were elected as members of the Nominating Committee:

Greg Boyajian
Laura Negosian
Barbara Haroutunian
Greg Jamian
Garry Javizian

The Chair declared that the following individuals were elected to the Auditing Committee:

John Bahadurian
Roseann Manoogian
Thomas Stambouljian

The Chair declared that the following individuals were elected as Diocesan Delegates:

Martin Cholakian
Martin M. Manoogian
Arthur Mardigian
Richard Norsigian
John Semizian
Harry Terzian
Gary Zamanigian

XI. PASTOR'S CLOSING MESSAGE, PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED AND BENEDICTION

Fr. Paren remarked that he would individually address the issue of the Persian Gulf war from his perspective to the individual who brought it up earlier.

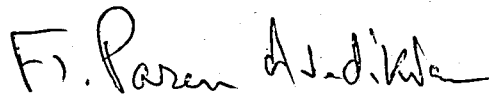
With regard to Mrs. Artinian's concern, Fr. Paren said it is easy to criticize what's happening with our youth. While we do publicize many events for our youth, Fr. Paren felt that many times there is no encouragement from the parents. He specifically mentioned April 6, 1990 when the seminarians were here. Our attendance was pitiful. He stressed that our priorities need to be re-evaluated. Fr. Paren stated that we did not have ACYOA Seniors last year. The Seniors decided they were going to sponsor the November dance. Fr. Paren noted that since then, we have attempted to create opportunities, through our Youth Coordinator, Laura Gononian, for this group of young people to get together and re-establish an environment of friendship so that we can begin to re-create the ACYOA Seniors. Since the November dance, three or four get-togethers have been planned. Fr. Paren reiterated that it is the parents' responsibility to encourage their children in this regard. Fr. Paren also noted that we do have a wonderful group of young people who devote their time to 13- to 17-year olds, and that is the group which is strong today, not only because of the adult chaperones, but also because the Executive Body consists of dedicated young people.

Fr. Paren commented on the Mr. & Mrs. Society, which had been inactive for two years, is now active. He said one person was determined that this organization was going to be rejuvenated, and it happened. He was delighted that a month ago, there was a family Bingo; and 140 people from the Mr. & Mrs. Society list attended.

Fr. Paren asked the Assembly to rise in order to pray for those members of our community who passed away in 1990. Following the prayer for the deceased, Fr. Paren offered the benediction.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

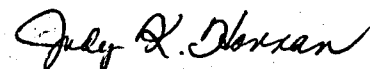
A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.



Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor



Dr. Edward Sarkisian
Chairman



Judy K. Hovnan
Secretary