

**ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1996**

**I. INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER**

The Parish Assembly ("Assembly") was called to order by the Chairman of the 1995 Assembly Dr. Dennis Papazian at 7:40 PM. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian, Pastor, offered the Invocation and the **Prayer for the Deceased** - Members of the Parish who passed away in 1995. Dr. Papazian explained that the Assembly is to be chaired by the 1995 Parish Assembly Officers - Dr. Papazian, Chairman of the Day and Gloria Korkoian, Secretary of the Day - until the 1996 Parish Assembly Officers are elected.

Dr. Papazian reminded the Assembly that the rules state that only paid members of the Church may speak or vote. Only paid members should have three cards, which will be used later for balloting and voting.

**II. VERIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM**

Dr. Papazian read the Diocesan By-laws' definition on what constitutes a quorum: the presence of 1/3 of the eligible voters or 50 members shall constitute a quorum and decisions should be rendered by majority vote. Dr. Papazian stated that there are clearly more than 50 members present and if there are no objections from the Assembly, the Secretary will record that a quorum is present. There were no objections. A quorum was present.

Dr. Papazian stated that the eligibility of members had been verified by the Parish Council as parishioners registered.

At 8:15 PM there were 212 eligible members present.

At 8:38 PM there were 222 eligible members present.

At 9:30 PM, when balloting was closed, there were 225 eligible members present.

**III. ELECTIONS**

Dr. Papazian introduced Gary Javizian, Chairman of the 1996 Nominating Committee, to conduct the Election of the Parish Assembly Officers.

**ELECTION OF PARISH ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY**

Mr. Javizian asked Arthur S. Mardigian and Dr. Dennis Papazian to come forward for introduction. Mr. Javizian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations

from the floor, the nominations for Chairman of the Day were closed. He asked that we dispense with the reading of the biographies. There being no objections, the biographies were not read.

### **SECRETARY OF THE DAY**

Gloria Korkoian and Nancy Mechigian were asked to come forward for introduction. Mr. Javizian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations for Secretary of the Day were closed. He asked that we dispense with the reading of the biographies. There being no objections, the biographies were not read.

Mr. Javizian presented the candidates for Parish Assembly Officers.

Chairman of the Day:	Arthur S. Mardigian and Dr. Dennis Papazian
Secretary of the Day:	Gloria Korkoian and Nancy Mechigian

The balloting rules were explained. There being no questions on the balloting process, the ballots were passed out.

During the balloting process, Mr. Javizian thanked the Nominating Committee: Diana Alexanian, Judy Hovnan, Yrtz. Rosalie Papazian and Mary Ryan. He also thanked all the volunteers who assisted the Committee: the Ballot Monitors, the majority of which are members of the ACYOA, the Church secretaries, Helen Armoudlian and Shannon Roup, Arthur Barsamian for taking the photos of the candidates, Dr. Zaven Margosian of Lawrence Institute of Technology for providing the ballot scanning machine and Alex Alexanian for setting up the Nominating Committee message in the **Torch Bearer**.

Dr. Papazian reviewed the **Rules & Regulations** governing Membership and the Parish Assembly as outlined on page 2 of the 1995 Annual Report. He asked that all paid members move to the front and guests be seated in the back of the Assembly Hall. Only paid members can speak and vote during the Assembly. Guests cannot speak.

Dr. Papazian announced that items to be considered for the Agenda for **Item #9 - New Business** will be received following **Item #6 - 1995 Annual Reports**. All new business items to be put on the Agenda should be made in writing and submitted to the Chair before we get to **Item #7 - Review of 1995 Financial Report**.

### **ELECTION RESULTS - ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

Mr. Javizian announced the election results and congratulated the Officers:

Chairman of the Day:	Arthur S. Mardigian
Secretary of the Day:	Gloria Korkoian

The Officers took their positions. Arthur S. Mardigian thanked the Assembly for their confidence and stated that both candidates for Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day were excellent candidates. He extended the gratitude of the elected officers to the Assembly.

### **PARTIAL ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS (6)**

Mr. Javizian presented the slate of 8 candidates for six (6) Parish Council positions. Mr. Mardigian informed the Assembly that per the Diocesan By-laws, we must have 2 candidates for each position. For 6 positions, we should have 12 candidates. We only have 8. He pointed out that we can proceed with the elections, but there is a very good possibility that the election could be rejected by the Primate and the Diocesan Council because it does not comply with the Diocesan By-laws.

The Chair then asked for nominations from the floor. Several nominations were made, but only Dr. Gary Zamanigian accepted the nomination.

A **MOTION** was made to close the nominations. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

A **MOTION** was made to rescind the motion to close nominations because members wanted to make additional nominations. It was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

The floor was re-opened for additional nominations. Several were made and only Elizabeth Aprahamian accepted the nomination.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to close the nominations.

The Candidates were introduced:

Elizabeth Aprahamian	Mary Keoleian*
Howard Atesian*	Virginia Mekjian
Dr. Vincent Baylerian*	Gayle Sarkisian
Alberta Godoshian	Andrew Tarpinian
Jane Hovsepian*	Dr. Gary Zamanigian
	* Incumbent

Mr. Javizian asked the Assembly if he could dispense with the reading of the biographies for all candidates for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditor. There were no objections.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5)**

Mr. Javizian presented a slate of 8 candidates for five (5) positions. Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor reminding the Assembly that 10 candidates are required to comply with the Diocesan By-laws. There were none.

A **MOTION** was made to close the nominations. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

The candidates were introduced:

Julieann Hovanesian	Margaret Oknaian
Dianne Merigian	Tom Stambouljian
Suzanne Nazoyan	Lazurus Surabian**
Mary Negosian	Dr. Ara Yagoobian
	** Not Present

## **AUDITING COMMITTEE (1)**

Mr. Javizian presented a slate of 1 candidate for one (1) position. Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor reminding the Assembly that 2 candidates are required to comply with the Diocesan By-laws. There were none.

The candidate was introduced:

John Bahadurian

Mr. Javizian reviewed the balloting procedures, reminding the Assembly that 6 are to be elected for the Parish Council, 5 for the Nominating Committee and 1 for Auditor. He assured the Assembly that all ballots had been reviewed to ensure that they had not been used previously.

Mr. Mardigian announced that balloting will be open until 9:30 PM.

Dr. Dennis Papazian suggested that the balloting be closed earlier since most of the members that were coming were here (at 8:40 PM). Mr. Mardigian stated that the time, as announced on page 1 of the Annual Report, will be kept.

Dr. Gary Zamanigian made a **MOTION** that the 1996 Parish Assembly go on record that the Nominating Committee made every effort to fill the slate for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditor with two candidates for each position and that the Assembly accepts the slate of ten (10) candidates for Parish Council, eight (8) for Nominating Committee and one (1) for Auditor. The **MOTION** was seconded, read again, voted on and **PASSED**.

At 8:55 all ballots were collected and the meeting continued.

## **V. MINUTES OF THE 1995 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Mr. Mardigian asked the Assembly if they had any questions on the 1995 Minutes.

Glen Pulice asked if a member had not paid dues by 12/31/95, could that member speak at the Assembly. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian said no, only members in good standing could speak. Mr. Pulice asked how the Chairman would know if the party speaking had paid. Mr. Mardigian responded that the party speaking should hold up a voting card. Only members in good standing were issued cards prior to the start of the meeting.

A **MOTION** was made to dispense with the reading of the 1995 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes and to ratify them as the official record of the 1995 Parish Assembly. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

## VI. 1995 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair stated that the Reports would not be read, but that the Pastor and Parish Council would answer questions. He asked for questions on the Reports page by page.

Marianne Dardarian asked how many couples were reflected in the **Pledge Report** of 711 paid members. Dr. Vincent Baylerian, Parish Council Assistant Treasurer, responded that there are 310 couples who paid the minimum and 45 couples who paid over the minimum. There are also 260 individuals who have paid the minimum and 53 individuals who have paid over the minimum, 30 students and 4 hardships.

Tom Stambouljian wanted to know the location of the new mirror in the Banquet Room as shown in the **Building Report**. Mr. Hovnanian of the Church Staff pointed out the mirror, which is hung to the left of the stage by the kitchen entrance.

Harry Amerkanian had questions on **Confirmed Rental Bookings** being 42.58% higher than last year in the **Building Report**. Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, addressed this question stating that it reflects bookings made in advance.

Robert Ajemian spoke on the **Armenian Artifacts** report. He asked if the rumor about The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian suing the Church was true. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian stated that we do not address issues based on rumor and that this question was not a relevant issue here. The Chair stated that there is no law suit against the Church.

Elizabeth Roberts stated that the **Social Concern Fund** shows \$11,321 was expended, but **Line Item 22** in the **Allocation of Receipts and Expenditures** on page 25 shows \$7,250. Why the difference? Edward H. Korkoian, Parish Council Chairman, responded there are additional funds from other sources as outline on page 15.

There were no other questions and this concluded **Agenda Item #6 - 1995 Annual Report Questions and Answers**.

At this time, the floor was opened for motions to add items to the Agenda of **New Business - Item # 9**, as announced at the beginning of the Assembly. Motions are to be in writing and will be read and voted on by the Assembly.

**Motion #1** called for a suggestion box to be placed in a visible location so that parishioners could make suggestions.

A **MOTION** was made to add this item to New Business, seconded, voted on and **DEFEATED**. The Assembly called for a recount. The **MOTION** was voted on again and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion #2** requested that Church Organizations not be charged to advertise in the **Torch Bearer**.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion #3** was for the Church to change distributions of **In Lieu of Flowers** to follow family wishes. Walt Negosian stated that this should be discussed before New Business. The Chair responded that it does not affect the budget.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion #4** was for the Parish Council and Pastor to honor the **In Lieu of Flowers** decision made at the 1995 Assembly that made the **In Lieu of Flowers** family wishes retroactive to 1/1/95.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion #5** requested that the Multipurpose Room be made available for a minimum rental charge and with a reasonable menu for wedding rehearsal dinners, brunches, etc.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion #6** requested that the **In Lieu of Flowers** policy, as published in the **Torch Bearer**, be reviewed and discussed

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED**. It will be added to the Agenda for New Business.

**Motion # 7** requested that a Parliamentarian be elected at the beginning of each Assembly. The Chair stated that this was out of order and that the Parliamentarian is the President of the Assembly, our Pastor.

**Motions # 1-6** will be added to the **Agenda for New Business - Item #9**. Since the motions did not affect the **1996 Budget**, the Assembly proceeded with the **Financial Report**.

## **VII. REVIEW OF 1995 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Chair asked for questions on the **1995 Financial Report**.

Kathy Mekjian questioned the \$99,221 accrued interest for **Endowments** found on page 22 and asked if the interest was included in the Additional Endowments of \$108,755.75. Edward Bedikian, Church Auditor, responded that the Additional Endowments are actual

contributions. The interest is not included because it is used by the Church for general purposes.

Elizabeth Roberts had questions on the distribution of money collected for the **Armenian Relief Fund** under **Liabilities** on page 22. Edward Bedikian, Church Auditor, responded that the funds are accumulated over time and the moneys will be distributed. The amount shown under **Liabilities** was collected up to 12/31/95, but has not yet been disbursed. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian added that the funds are not disbursed immediately because we have a waiting period of one year to accumulate the money.

**At 9:30 PM the balloting was officially closed. 225 registered members cast ballots.**

Edward Jizmejjan had questions on the \$500,000 donated by the Manoogian Home to the Endowment Fund. Edward Bedikian, Church Auditor, added that this figure represents cash in the bank, but there are also other investments with brokerage firms and zero coupon bonds.

There were no other questions on the **1995 Financial Report**.

## **VIII. 1996 BUDGET**

The Chair introduced Dr. Vincent Baylerian, Parish Council Assistant Treasurer, to answer questions on the **1996 Budget**.

The Assembly was asked if they had questions on page 24 - **Receipts**.

Edward Jizmejjan had questions on **Line Item # 17 - Building Operations Net**. Discussion ensued on kitchen costs and plate charges going up, but less money in 1995 over 1994. Armen Hovnanian of the Church Staff offered some answers. After a lengthy discussion, the Chair told Mr. Jizmejjan that a Parish Council Member would meet with him to satisfy his questions.

Harry Terzian asked where the \$30,000 on **Line Item # 19 - Special Events Net** - was coming from. Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, responded that a committee has been formed to do fund raising and will hold special events to raise money and for fellowship purposes.

Albert Mardirosian asked why \$0 have been budgeted for **Line Item #14 - Bingo**. Onnig Boyajian, Parish Council Member, who is on the Bingo Committee, responded that they do not have a Chairman for the Bingo Committee and volunteers have lost interest. We lack help, not players. We need fresh blood. Discussion ensued. Virginia Melkonian suggested we hire kids for \$10 per hour. Mr. Mardigian responded that there are age restrictions as well as salary ones.

Kathy Mekjian asked what are the 1996 anticipated revenues for Bingo. Mr. Mardigian responded that it cannot be projected. Therefore, \$0 was put in the budget.

Edward Karamanian observed that \$0 equals no profits and no revenues. He asked if the event (Bingo) would be cancelled. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretjian answered that the Assembly will decide to continue Bingo, not the Parish Council.

Michael Blakian, Parish Council Member, stated that if you don't have a chairman, you don't have Bingo.

Kathy Mekjian made a **MOTION** to add \$5,000 under Bingo on the Revenue side. The **MOTION** was seconded and discussed.

Mary Ryan spoke against the motion.

Dr. Baylerian, Parish Council Assistant Treasurer, was asked how much was anticipated from Bingo in the next 6 weeks. He stated approx. \$1,500.

A **MOTION TO AMEND** the \$5,000 to \$1,500 for Bingo Revenues was made, seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

Dr. Papazian spoke for the motion.

Arthur Apkarian spoke against the motion.

The **AMENDED MOTION** to add \$1,500 was voted on and **DEFEATED**.

Marianne Dardarian asked why **L.O.F. Adm. Fee Line Item #6** had \$0 budgeted. Mr. Mardigian stated that the money goes to the Building Maintenance Fund not to the Budget.

Harry Terzian asked what are the administration costs for **In Lieu of Flowers**? The costs should be reflected here. Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, stated that the money goes to the Building Fund.

There were no other questions on **Receipts**.

The Assembly was asked if they had questions on page 25 - **Expenditures**.

Dr. Harry Demirgian asked why the expenditures on **Line Item #8 - Torch Bearer** - had doubled. Mary Keoleian, Parish Council Member, explained that it reflected 13 issues - a special issue on the Vehapar and included costs for covers.

Zaven Dolik asked what prompted the Parish Council to drop \$5,000 for **Line Item # 39 - St. Nersess Seminary**. Discussion ensued. Kazar Terterian, Parish Council Member, pointed out that 1996 expenditures are \$95,000 greater than last year and receipts are \$32,000 less. The Parish Council felt collectively that this Assembly should organize committees to raise money for charities - St. Nersess Seminary, Armenia Relief Fund, etc. We need to look at an alternative way to support St. Nersess Seminary.



Dr. Dennis Papazian made a **MOTION** to add \$1,500 to the Budget for St. Nersess Seminary. The **MOTION** was seconded.

Dr. Harry Kezelian made a **MOTION TO AMEND** the previous **MOTION** to \$5,000. It was seconded, discussed, voted on and **DEFEATED**.

The **MOTION** to add \$1,500 for St. Nersess Seminary was voted on and **DEFEATED** (45 no to 40 yes).

Elizabeth Roberts questioned the costs that have doubled for the **Torch Bearer in Line Item # 8**.

She made a **MOTION** to return to the old format to decrease the budgeted amount from \$27,000 to \$15,000 for the **Torch Bearer**. It was seconded and discussion ensued.

Lisa Mardigian spoke against the motion.

Lynn Kojamarian spoke against the motion.

The **MOTION** to decrease the budgeted amount from \$27,000 to \$15,000 for **Line Item #8** was voted on and **DEFEATED**.

Harry Terzian asked if the Apostolic Allocation Credit of \$65,000 would be the same every year. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian responded that it is anticipated every year.

Roseann Attar asked why **Line Item #1 - Salaries** was \$50,000 higher? Was it due to pay raises? Edward H. Korkoian, Parish Council Chairman, responded that it was budgeted for an Assistant Pastor.

Ed Karamanian wanted an explanation on the bracketed items in the expense column. Armen Hovnanian of the Church Staff stated that donations received for these items exceeded the expenses and there was a credit balance.

Mihran Hoplamazian referring to **Line Item - 20 Approp. AGBU School** asked why \$0 had been budgeted. Edward H. Korkoian, Parish Council Chairman, responded that the Church was informed by Mr. Azadian and Dr. Sarafian that the School could no longer accept donations because it had received charter status. The Parish Council sent a letter in January 1996 to Sooren Gozmanian, AGBU School Board Chairman, informing the School Board of the Parish Council's decision to delete **Line Item 20 - \$12,000** - due to the change in the School's status. The Parish Council also invited Dr. Sarafian and Mr. Azadian of the AGBU School Board to meet with the Parish Council, but as of this date they have not contacted the Parish Council.

Mr. Hoplamazian made a **MOTION** to reinstate the \$12,000 in **Line Item 20** for the AGBU School. The **MOTION** was seconded and discussion ensued.

Sooren Gozmanian, AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School Board Chairman, stated that he would like to clarify the donation issue. There are no legal rules or regulations by the State of Michigan that will prevent individuals or organizations including churches from donating to the school. The school has expenses that will not be covered by the meager State contributions. The School will gladly accept donations from individuals, organizations and the Church to offset these expenses.

Prof. Dickran Toumajan, Parish Council Member, read a copy of a letter to the Church from Dr. Sarafian. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian stated that he had not received the letter. He told the Assembly that Dr. Sarafian and Mr. Azadian had told him that the Church could not participate with the school. The school would not pay \$12,000 rent and the Church would not donate \$12,000. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian also said that the State had even measured the distance of the School from the Church. We are not against the School. We firmly believe in the school.

Prof. Toumajan, Parish Council Member, spoke for the motion stating that it behooves us to continue the support.

Mr. Mardigian repeated the motion on the floor.

A **MOTION TO AMEND** the previous **MOTION** to from \$12,000 to \$24,000 was made, seconded, voted on and **DEFEATED**.

The **MOTION** to add \$12,000 to **Line Item 20 - Approp. Manoogian School** - was voted on and **DEFEATED** (45 no to 39 yes).

The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian asked the Assembly to reconsider the motion.

The **MOTION** to **RECONSIDER** adding \$12,000 to **Line Item 20 - Approp. Manoogian School** was made, seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

The **MOTION** to add \$12,000 to **Line Item 20 - Approp. Manoogian School** was voted on and **DEFEATED** (33 no to 30 yes).

Glen Pulice asked for clarification from the Parish Council on the \$50,000 budgeted for an Assistant Pastor in **Line Item #1 - Salaries** and asked if it was in lieu of the General Manager or in addition to the General Manager. It was his understanding that the 1994 Assembly approved the expenditure for the General Manager until an Assistant Pastor was secured. Mr. Mardigian said that we will check the Minutes of the 1994 Assembly to verify this point.

Dr. Harry Kezelian questioned the \$1,533 over budget in **Line Item 12 - Travel** for 1994. Kazar Terterian, Parish Council Member, responded that the amount was for The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian's travel costs to Armenia for the election of Catholicos Karekin I.

Dr. Kezelian questioned \$2,500 budgeted for **Line Item # 11 - Senior Citizen Luncheons**. Mr. Mardigian stated that the \$2,500 was a subsidy for 26 luncheons attended by 125-160

seniors per luncheon, which are held every Tuesday. The remaining 26 luncheons are subsidized by private donations.

Dr. Kezelian made a **MOTION** to delete \$2,500 from **Line Item 11 - Senior Citizen Luncheons**. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **DEFEATED**.

There were no other questions on the **1996 Budget**.

Harry Terzian made a **MOTION** to accept the 1996 Budget as presented. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted and **PASSED**.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Suggestion Box:**

Albert Mardirosian made a **MOTION** that a **Suggestion Box** be placed in a visible location so that parishioners could make suggestions. The **MOTION** was seconded, discussed and **PASSED**.

### **Multipurpose Room:**

Joyce Karamanian requested that the Multipurpose Room be made available for a minimum rental charge and with a reasonable menu for wedding rehearsal dinners, brunches, etc. Armen Hovnanian of the Church Staff stated that it has been available. Mrs. Karamanian suggested that the Church prepare a portfolio with all the information on contracts, services and the facilities capabilities. Mr. Mardigian said that the Parish Council will make the information available.

### **Torch Bearer:**

Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, made a **MOTION** that Church Organizations not be charged for advertising in the **Torch Bearer**. The **MOTION** was seconded, discussed and **PASSED**.

### **In Lieu of Flowers:**

Mr. Mardigian stated that 3 motions have been made to put **In Lieu of Flowers** on the New Business Agenda. He suggested that the Parish Assembly appoint a Committee to review the **In Lieu of Flowers** policy and then present it to the Parish at a special meeting.

Charlene Apigian disagreed with the suggestion. She stated that a motion was made legally at the 1995 Assembly to revert back to family wishes and she wants the money donated in her mother's name to be divided equally between the Church and the Choir. The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian told Mrs. Apigian that he has asked Armen Hovnanian of the Church Staff to divide the money according to her wishes.

Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, stated that the decision of the 1995 Assembly was family wishes. Unfortunately it was not instituted by the administration.

Mrs. Apigian asked that the Parish Council please act upon it.

Mr. Mardigian read the **In Lieu of Flowers Policy** discussion and motion from the 1995 Assembly Minutes. He said that motion had no date. Mrs. Apigian stated a date wasn't necessary since it rescinded the previous policy.

Walt Negosian read from the 1995 Minutes on page 11 that the Motion was out of order since it affected the Budget and the Budget had been passed. The Chair stated that the motion being discussed does not affect the 1996 Budget.

Prof. Dickran Toumajan, Parish Council Member, stated that it involves 24 families and totals \$15,000 and we need to make it retroactive to 1/1/95.

The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian stated that only Mrs. Apigian has complained, not the other 23 families and no one here can speak for those 23 families.

Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, made a **MOTION** to make all donations family wishes retroactive to 1/1/95. The **MOTION** was seconded and extensive discussion ensued.

Harry Terzian asked how one makes out a check for **In Lieu of Flowers** - donors wishes vs. family wishes. Edward H. Korkoian, Parish Council Chairman, stated to make the check out to St. John's and put the other organization's name in the memo section.

Gary Javizian speaking on behalf of parishioners asked why the **1995 In Lieu of Flowers Policy** had not been carried out and why when a Parish Assembly votes to do something why wasn't it carried out. It is not right. It is illegal. The Assembly voted and it wasn't it done.

Mr. Mardigian said there was some confusion. Mr. Javizian said there wasn't any confusion when we passed it.

Mr. Mardigian stated there is a motion of the floor. Is there any further discussion.

Arthur Apkarian spoke against the motion stating there should be a reciprocal agreement between the Apostolic Society, AGBU, etc. If they want to take a percentage they should. It shouldn't be just one way.

Kathy Mekjian spoke for the motion.

Hagop Asadurian spoke for the motion.

The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretizian spoke against the motion.

The **MOTION** was voted on and **PASSED**.

Diane Kezelian asked for clarification on the 25% administration fee. Howard Atesian, Parish Council Member, explained the policy.

Kathy Mekjian withdrew her motion on **In Lieu of Flowers** stating that it had been covered by the above discussion and motion.

The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretjian withdrew his motion on **In Lieu of Flowers**.

Kazar Terterian, Parish Council Member, advised the Assembly that each member had been given copies of Proposals I & II.

Kathy Mekjian made a **MOTION** to dispense with the reading of the proposals in their entirety. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

Mr. Terterian, Parish Council Member, presented each proposal for the Assembly's consideration for submission to the 1996 General Assembly.

**Proposal I:**

The Parish Council requests that the Parish Assembly adopt the policy of bestowing Honorary St. John's Armenian Church Membership upon those dedicated individuals within our community who have committed themselves to serving the Armenian Church for over 45 years. "Honorary Church Member" status would be granted only to those who meet the following minimum criteria.

- A. To be at least 77 plus years of age in addition to
- B. Having 45 plus total years of church membership with any Armenian Church, of which at least 10 years of church memberships has been with St. John's Armenian Church.

A **MOTION** was made to accept **Proposal I**. The **MOTION** was seconded, discussed, voted on and **PASSED**.

Marianne Dardarian noted that "Honorary Members" can attend the Parish Assembly and asked if they can speak at the Assembly? Mr. Mardigian responded not at this time unless they pay dues or unless the Diocesan Assembly amends its By-laws.

**Proposal II:**

The Diocesan Assembly directs the Diocese to amend the Diocesan By-laws, paragraph No. 6 to add:

Every Member of the parish that has attained the status of "Honorary Church Member" would be exempt from paying annual dues and shall also constitute as a member in good standing provided both Sections A & B of this Article have been met."

- A. To be at least 77 plus years of age in addition to
- B. Having 45 plus total years of church membership with any Armenian Church, of which at least 10 years of church memberships has been with St. John's Armenian Church.

A **MOTION** was made to accept **Proposal II**. The **MOTION** was seconded and discussed.

Harry Terzian pointed out that Parish Assembly is submitting the Proposal and therefore the wording of the first sentence should be changed from "The Diocesan Assembly" to "The Parish Assembly of St. John's Armenian Church."

The **MOTION** was amended, voted on and **PASSED**.

Mr. Mardigian pointed out that this is not a proposal, but a By-laws amendment, and that it should be submitted immediately to the Diocesan Proposal Committee. Mr. Javizian suggested that the Parish Council fax this immediately and not wait for the Assembly Minutes to be done because the Amendments must be in the hands of the delegates two months prior to the General Assembly.

Mr. Mardigian stated that **Proposal I** is in effect now and that **Proposal II** requires an Amendment to the Diocesan By-laws.

Mr. Mardigian asked the indulgence of the Assembly and requested again that because the **In Lieu of Flowers Policy** is a very confusing issue and a very emotional issue, that with permission of the Assembly, a Committee in consultation with the Parish Council, be appointed to develop a formal policy and then call a Special Meeting opened to all parishioners to allow everyone to state their cases. The Assembly voiced No to this suggestion.

#### **X. ELECTION RESULTS**

The Chair asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to announced the election results. Mr. Javizian announced the election results and congratulated the new members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

✓ <b>Parish Council:</b>	Howard Atesian Dr. Vincent Baylerian Mary Keoleian	Jane Hovsepian Andrew Tarpinian Dr. Gary Zamanigian	✓
<b>Nominating Committee:</b>	Julieann Hovanesian Suzanne Nazoyan Mary Negosian	Tom Stambouljian Dr. Ara Yagoobian	
<b>Auditing Committee:</b>	John Bahadurian		

Mr. Javizian congratulated all who accepted to run, stating that they all are winners. Mr. Mardigian thanked Mr. Javizian, the Nominating Committee and the ACYOA members and the Assembly responded with a round of applause.

#### **XI: PASTOR'S CLOSING MESSAGE AND BENEDICTION**

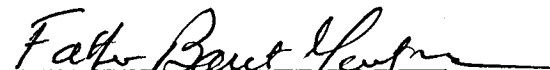
The Very Rev. Baret Yeretizian stated that the evening had been long and he would keep his remarks short. He thanked the Assembly. He stated that the purpose of the Annual Meeting is

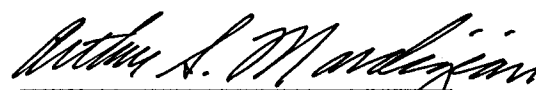
to come together and work for the good of the Parish. He asked that we continue to work together and that there should be no hard feelings. I am happy that you are exercising your right to speak and vote. I wish more of our parishioners would. God bless you.

He concluded with the Benediction.


**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parish Assembly adjourned at 11:59 PM

  
The Very Rev. Fr. Barek Yeretzian  
President

  
Arthur S. Mardigian  
Chairman, Parish Assembly

3/20/96  
Date

  
Gloria L. Korkoian  
Secretary, Parish Assembly

**ST. JOHNS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

**1996 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**PROPOSAL II**

**PROPOSAL:**

The Diocesan Assembly directs the Diocese to amend the Diocesan By-Laws, paragraph No. 6 from:

"Every member of the Parish, 18 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) Church an annual due, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased by the Parish Assembly."

to read:

"Every member of the Parish, 18 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) Church an annual due, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased by the Parish Assembly."

Every member of the Parish, that has attained the status of 'Honorary Church Member', would be exempt from paying annual dues and shall also constitute as a member in good standing provided both Sections A and B of this Article have been met."

**A. To be at least 77 plus years of age**

**B. Having 45 plus total years of Church membership with any Armenian Church, of which at least 10 years of Church membership (in good standing) has been with their current Parish in the Eastern Diocese.**

**RATIONAL:**

The Diocese made up by its dues paying members should establish a mechanism by which recognition and honor should be bestowed upon their untiring senior members for their near half century of dedicated service to the Church. The recognition and honor bestowed upon these seniors for their many years of devoted service would come at a time in their life when they can least afford to financially participate fully.

Though individual Parish's today can bestow "Honorary" titles and privileges upon its members, the right to fully participate at annual General Assemblies would be denied as defined by Diocesan By-Laws, paragraphs No 5, 6 and 7. We as practicing Christians, should establish policies which are fair and equitable for both Diocese and all of its members.



# **ST. JOHNS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

## **1996 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **PROPOSAL I**

##### **PROPOSAL:**

The Parish Council requests that the General Assembly adopt the policy of bestowing Honorary St. John's Armenian Church Membership upon those dedicated individuals within our community who have committed themselves to serving the Armenian Church for over 45 years. "Honorary Church Member" status would be granted only to those who meet the following minimum criteria.

A. To be at least 77 plus years of age in addition to

B. Having 45 plus total years of church membership with any Armenian Church, of which at least 10 years of church membership has been with St. John's Armenian Church.

Honorary Church Member benefits would include full rights and privileges as a member of St. John's Armenian Church, including the right to attend (but not vote) at the General Assembly. They would also be exempt from paying any annual Parish dues.

Should the Diocesan Assembly in the future adopt a policy exempting the "Honorary Church Member" from paying annual dues and consider them to be members in good standing, then those individuals would also have the right to vote at the General Assembly.

This proposal if adopted would retroactively take effect as of January 1, 1996

##### **RATIONAL:**

The Church made up by its dues paying members should establish a mechanism by which recognition and honor should be bestowed upon their untiring senior members for their near half century of dedicated service to the Church. Additionally, the recognition and honor bestowed upon these seniors for their many years of service would come at a time in their life when they can least afford to financially participate fully.