

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION  
11 Erwin Place, New Britain, Conn. 06051

Parish Council Report for the Calendar Year 1975  
Presented at the Annual Parish Assembly on Jan. 25, 1976

Parish Council Members for 1975

President  
Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Pledge Custodian  
Advisor  
Advisor  
Advisor  
Advisor  
*Advisor*

Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian  
Given Hoosigian  
John Maljanian  
Charles Hovsepian  
Hurach Azarigian  
Hurach Azarigian  
B. J. Hovhanessian  
Stephan Der Margosian  
Harry Azarigian  
Gregory Abrahamian  
*Monty Bagdikian*

1. Meetings

a) At the first parish council meeting on February 10, 1975, the members of the newly-formed council were elected to their respective offices as noted above.

b) Twelve regularly scheduled meetings and one special meeting of the council were held to handle the routine business of the Council.

c) Several meetings were held with Hartford by John Maljanian and his Picnic Committee to plan and organize for the Joint Church Picnic.

d) Father Vartan, with Parish Council and Diocesan representatives attended a regional meeting held in Enfield, Conn. in November.

2. Church Enterprises

Your Parish Council planned, organized and conducted the following in the course of 1975:

a) 34th Anniversary Celebration

The 34th Anniversary Celebration was held on Sunday, March 23, 1975 at the Holiday Inn, Plainville, Conn. with Greg Abrahamian as Master of Ceremonies. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Mayor James Carey and Commissioner Stanley Pac joined us in this celebration. Total donations amounted to \$3332.

b) Annual Church Picnic

Our Annual picnic was sponsored jointly with the Hartford Parish at Elks Field, East Hartford, on Sunday, August 24, 1975. John Maljanian and Guy Bedrosian (Hartford) were joint chairmen. Each church realized a profit of \$117.75.

c) Church Dance

Our Parish held a dance at Elk's Hall in East Hartford, Conn. on Saturday, September 27, 1975. The effort was co-chaired by Gregory Abrahamian and B. J. Hovhanessian. Total proceeds for our parish were \$103.60. The ad book realized a profit of \$1039.00 mostly through the efforts of Gregory Abrahamian, B. J. Hovhanessian and Edward Simonian.

d) Armenian Martyr's Day

In commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, our parish celebrated a special Divine Liturgy and Hoki-hankist on April 24, 1975. Area clergy were invited and did participate with us in this commemoration.

3. Maintenance

As you are all aware, we are striving to maintain the condition of this church until such time as we are able to sell to the Redevelopment Agency. It is very difficult to minimize this expense while we try to hold up the value of the premises. In addition, we have had a particularly bad year in terms of damage from vandalism-caused broken windows. At the present time we have one completely broken window in the vestry and 4 windows with varying degrees of damage. Our insurance covers a maximum of \$450 per window. This is more than adequate for the windows with varying degrees of damage. However, the completely broken window will cost \$600.00 to repair.

- a) Furnace - The burner chamber was relined, burner overhauled and the oil tank replaced for an approximate cost of \$300.00.
- b) There have been complaints that our sewer system has been contaminating the apartment house at North and Erwin Place. We have contracted with a plumber to look into this matter.
- c) The locks had to be replaced because one of our keys was missing. This was done at a nominal cost by Mr. Sargis Grigorian.
- d) We publicly thank Harry Azarigian for his continual help in making repairs, and cleaning up and in general, doing more than his share toward upkeep of the church building and grounds. He has also donated a motorized curtain rod for the altar curtain which we hope will be used in our new church.

4. Publications

The "Looy's" has been published two times this past year through the efforts of the various organizational reporters and volunteer staff of the ACYQA. The ACYQA has assumed the responsibility of publishing the "Looy's".

5. Church Deacons and Choir

The Parish Council has regretfully agreed to accept Mr. P. K. Arakelian's decision not to serve regularly on the altar. Our three deacons, Paul Abrahamian, Stephan Der Margosian and Given Hoosigian will help Fr. Vartan conduct the services.

In recent weeks, we have received communications from the Diocese requesting the names of local individuals who may be interested in participating in a program designed to augment local choirs. Our parish council and choir director are working with Fr. Vartan to prepare such a list.

6. Blessing of Homes

During the 1975 Easter season, our Parish Council and Parish Priest prepared a home blessing/visitation schedule. Fr. Vartan and members of the Parish Council had an opportunity to visit most parishioners at this time.

7. Bicentennial

Our Parish Council and Women's Guild participated in the Bicentennial program in April, 1975, sponsored by the City of New Britain.

8. Fr. Vartan's Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Ordination

The Parish Council notes with pleasure that June, 1976, will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian's ordination to the priesthood.

9. Other Matters

- a) At the request of the Diocese, our Parish Council has forwarded a copy of our insurance policy to New York with a view toward a common policy for Diocesan churches possibly at a reduced rate. Action has not been completed as yet by the Diocese.
- b) A letter has been sent to the New Britain Herald regarding their deletion of church schedules from their Saturday editions. The Herald is reviewing this matter and will make a decision on its future format shortly.
- c) A letter has been sent to the Southern New England Telephone Co. requesting correction of our listing in the New Britain telephone directory from the Diocese of the Armenian Church to the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection.
- d) Our Parish Council and Fr. Vartan attempted to set up Bible Classes where-by our parishioners would have an opportunity to understand the teachings of both the Holy Bible and our church. No interest was shown on the part of our parishioners. Hence, the program was discontinued.
- e) We have continued our membership in the Council of Churches. Our delegates are Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian, Mrs. Violet Galazan, Mrs. Lucy Simonian and Mrs. Beverly Hoosigian.

10. Finances

The auditor's report will cover this item in detail.

11. 1976 Budget

The proposed 1976 budget is attached and will be discussed under New Business. It should be noted that there is a new directive which was approved by the Diocesan Assembly establishing the stipend ranges for the clergy. This does have a major impact on our church and will be discussed during the 1976 budget presentation.

12. Church Membership

Great progress was made this year in the collecting of past-due pledges as well as 1975 pledges. The full credit for this effort goes to Hurach Azarigian, our Pledge Custodian, who in a very conscientious and organized manner followed through to maximize our pledge returns this past year. Although we can see that pledge income for 1975 was the greatest ever, \$7,979, we still have outstanding pledges due in the amount of \$715.00 which is less than was due last year at this time.

Hurach, as you are all aware, maintained contact with parishioners using telephone, mail, and personal visits to impress upon them the importance of the pledge income for the operation of our Church. Pledge income is the single

largest source of cash income to the Church, and is the means for meeting our weekly operating expenses. As you will hear during the Auditors report, the Church had to withdraw \$1,300 from the Trust Fund to balance the budget. Operating at a deficit will make it impossible to embark on a new building program. Everyone is urged to increase their pledges consistent to the needs of the Church and maintain these throughout the year in an up-to-date manner.

Building Committee

This report was combined with the Parish Council Report because most of the action was taken by the Parish Council since the chairman of the Building Committee, Mr. Stephan Der Margosian, is also a member of the council.

At the present time, the Erwin Place Area is included in New Britain's planning for the first year (July 1975-June 1976) program. The Parish Council did write a letter to the Redevelopment Commission and the Common Council to have this property taken. Mainly, through the efforts of Mr. Gregory Abrahamian and Mr. Ed Simonian that we are included in this year's plan.

In light of the forthcoming possibility of our church being taken by Hud, a delegation from our church met with a delegation of the Reformation Lutheran Church on Stanley St. to explore the feasibility of acquiring their church. A majority of the people present seem to be in favor of this possibility, however, not at the present time. Subsequent to our meeting, they had a parish assembly of their own and notified us that they are not interested in selling their church at this time. We will continue to be in contact with the Reformation Lutheran Church to see if there are any changes in their position.

The Building Committee will start doing the preliminary work for either buying or constructing a new church.

There are still some outstanding Building Fund pledges totalling \$1800 not fulfilled from our land drive. The Building committee has sent a letter to the individuals requesting their obligations be met. This is especially critical since a new building program is so close.

For the Parish Council

Secretary

Charles N. Hovsepian

Chairman

Stephan Der Margosian

President

Rev. Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian

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1976 PROPOSED BUDGET

INCOME:

Pledge	\$ 8,000.00
Plate	750.00
Weddings and Baptisms	50.00
Yughakin	1,400.00
Hokihankist	250.00
Church Donations	3,700.00
Looy's Donations	175.00
Church Enterprises	1,000.00
Hall Donations	100.00
Etchmiadzin Plate	50.00
Stewardship Donation	100.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Undefined Income	3,065.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$18,690.00</u>

EXPENSES:

Steipend	\$ 9,100.00
Fuel-Water-Gas-Electric	1,600.00
Telephone and Telegraph	190.00
Insurance	1,100.00
Diocesan Dues	3,200.00
Clergy Insurance	1,100.00
Building and Ground Maintenance	800.00
Office Supplies	450.00
Church Supplies	350.00
Travel and Lodging	450.00
Association Dues (New Britain Council of Churches)	200.00
Charitable Donations	100.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$18,690.00</u>