

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour was held on Sunday, January 28, 1979, in the Church Hall and commenced at 12:45 P.M. with the election of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary, namely, Zarvin Kasparian and Rose Paloian, respectively. Approximately 154 members attended. After a brief greeting from the newly elected Assembly Chairman, the meeting was recessed until 1:30 P.M. for the purpose of the balloting and election.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 P.M. in the lower hall of the Cultural Center with Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian presiding, along with Rev. Garabed Kochakian and Parish Council Chairman Nerses John Kabian in attendance. The chairman announced that the balloting would continue until 2:30 P.M. and that the meeting would proceed with the items on the Agenda, commencing with the matter of New Business.

It was suggested by Harry Sogigian that in anticipation of the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Church in America, which will take place in about ten years, sufficient funds approximating \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 be set aside for the purpose of publishing a historical documentary about our church. It was recommended that a committee be elected or appointed to do basic research as to the magnitude of such a project and what it will entail and to have a completely documented report in time for next year's Assembly. Motion made, seconded and carried to so do.

There being no further items under New Business, the Chairman proceeded with the review of the minutes of the previous assembly. The question was raised by George Mgridichian as to the advisability of listing the number of votes cast for the respective candidates as it appeared in the 1978 Annual Report, and made a recommendation that said practice be dispensed with, recommendation accepted by the assembly.

It was also noted that the wording in the last sentence of paragraph 3 of page 1 of the minutes should be changed to delete the words " of the Assembly".

With regard to the Report of the Parish Council, Bart Bagdasarian raised the question as to why the Special Parish Meeting pertaining to the Diocesan Assembly had not been included in the report. Apologies were extended by the Parish Council Chairman for omitting same.

Regarding the Report of the Pastor, a motion was made, seconded and passed that it be accepted with appreciation and commendation.

John Toromanian noted that in the Parish Council Report, page 16, 3rd paragraph, the number of parishioners in St. Vartan Stewardship Program was given as 18, whereas it should have been 19. It was also stated that said program is continually available at any time.

Clarification was requested regarding the organization of the Young Married Couples Club referred to in page 16 of the Parish Council Report. Rev. Kochakian explained that the formation of said group was for the purpose of bringing together young couples married within the past 15 years to get them more involved in the church in hopes that said involvement will result in active participation in all phases of church work.

Special note was made by Harry Sogigian relating to the Membership Crusade Committees efforts in organizing a file and campaign system for contacting prospective parishioners. He suggested that this committee be rotated so as to involve more people with the hope of getting our youth to pledge as well.

George Herosian raised the question as to why the number of parish members is not shown in the Annual Report whereupon the Chairman explained that the Parish Council does report membership to the Diocese and the count is always available.

In regard to the old organ, question was raised by Francis Najarian as to expense of renovation and subsequent disposition. Harry Sogigian explained that after the purchase of the new organ, estimates were obtained for the repair of the old organ and that the same was repaired at a cost of \$1,000.00 after which it was installed in the Cultural Center. It was noted by the Chairman that the disposition of the old organ was mentioned in the November 1977 issue of the Messenger. Motion was made, seconded, and passed to include this information the Annual Report.

Next to page 16, reference was made to the approval of a disaster loan in the amount of \$39,100.00 for repairs to the church and cultural center buildings and the question was raised by George Mgridichian as to the present status of the Cultural Center roof. A lengthy discussion ensued with many points of view, both pro and con, concerning the repairs, the advisability of bringing in another consultant, redesign of the roof, materials, appropriation of additional funds, durability of the repairs and guarantee of same, etc., all of which resulted in the following:

The motion was made by Gilbert Markarian that the Parish Council take all necessary action to properly and adequately repair the Cultural Center roof and make such other repairs to the Cultural Center and Church buildings as are necessary without being limited to costs specified at the Special Parish Assembly where disaster loan was approved.

With regard to the financial statement, the Treasurer referred to the Supplement which was inserted in the Annual Report for the purpose of indicating the correction of figures reported on pages 18,19, and 20.

John Toromanian noted the fact that the favorable response by our members for increased pledges is reflected in the figure shown under the actual income column for Pledges.

Referring to the Recapitulation, it was noted that the figure of \$203,200.55 should have been entitled Total Funds rather than Total Income, as it includes bank balances. Cash Balance should simply be Balance.

The motion was made seconded and carried that both the Parish Council Report and Financial Statement be accepted.

Elizabeth Kazarian and her committee were gratefully acknowledged for having prepared the Assembly Luncheon and special thanks were extended to Bart Bagdasarian for a job well done and to the numerous others who lent their talents and help to the Church. Among others cited for special recognition were Mary Sogigian as Assistant Secretary and to John Kabian for his untiring efforts.

After reviewing the Cultural Center Building Fund Report, motion was made, seconded and carried that the report be accepted. Thanks and appreciation were extended to Bart Bagdasarian for a job well done.

With regard to page 24, " 1979 Anticipated Income" questions were raised concerning the General Insurance and Clergy Insurance figures. John Kabian explained that general insurance covered the building and that clergy insurance covered for health and life and that the retirement fund is obtained through a contract with the Diocese.

A further question was raised as to the meaning of "Looma" which should be changed to read "Etchimizdin Looma".

Another question followed regarding the figure set for Custodian and Aides. Again, Parish Council Chairman John Kabian explained that such funds were in anticipation of hiring a full-time custodian for which position interviews are presently in progress. A lengthy discussion concerning this matter followed with many views and suggestions.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Budget, which motion was carried unanimously.

With regard to the Choir report, George Herosian commended the Choir Director and choir for their dedication and service to the Church.

Regarding the Armenian School report, it was noted by the Chairman that in comparison with other parishes, the size of our enrollment is relatively small the he questioned the fact that perhaps not enough interest is being fostered to increase the enrollment.

Sunday School Report- the following corrections and omissions were noted: The name of Ann Kabian should be changed to read "Ann Kheboian" and the name of Jean Merzigian should be added to the list of substitutes.

Library Committee Report- accepted as given.

Men's Club Report- wording of the last sentence of the first paragraph, should be changed to read "Balance of \$543.78" instead of "Budget".

Women's Guild Report: the name of Margaret Belles should be added to the list of Advisors.

With regard to Women's Guild activities, Julie Najarian made a motion that the Guild be allowed to send its annual donation to Tackmanchatz School, which practice was interrupted in 1978 when said donation was made through the Church in general. A long discussion ensued wherein it was explained by the Treasurer, Jerry Stepanian that the Parish Council has no objection to any one organizations, desiring to send money to Tackmanchatz, our Patriarchate of Jerusalem, that it only seeks approval of any allocation over \$25.00 and that where more than one church organization wishes to donate to the same charity, it is more effective to made a collective donation. It was recommended by the Chairman that in the future if the Women's Guild wishes to make its own donation, it should submit its request to the Parish Council, merely for approval.

The reports of both the ACYOA Seniors and ACYOA Juniors were accepted as written. Francis Najarian wished to note that the ACYOA Juniors failed to report on their various funds raising projects and wished to aprise the assembly of the fact that the Juniors turned over \$1,000.00 to the Church Treasury.

On behalf of the Avak group, of whom it was noted by their chairman, Lucy Kasparian, that a report had not been requested from the organization. However, she did wish to advise the Assembly of the tremendous success of the group since its inception in April of 1978, and proceeded to make two minor requests on behalf of the organization, namely, that the sidewalks be shovelled and sanded and that adequate heat be provided on the meeting days.

Upon completion of the review of the various reports, a motion wad made and seconded to accept same.

Gilbert Markarian commented on the probably misunderstandings between Church organizations and the Parish Council. He urged that these matters be looked into, discussed and resolved. He also suggested that organizations submit a list of their yearly projects to be undertaken for approval by the Parish Council.

The Chairman followed up with a suggestion that meetings be set up between all executive boards and Parish Council with regard to relationship and activities of the respective organizations and to outline their programs for the year for a better understanding between them. Parish Council Chairman John Kabian added that each organization has a liaison to the Council and that it should use this channel.

A recommendation was made by Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian that the minimum expenditure of each organization be raised from \$25.00 to \$100.00. The Chairman recommended that the Parish Council take the matter under advisement at the request of the Women's Guild.

Results of Election:

Elected to Parish Council:

Herbert Alexander	(93)
Torkom Boyajian	(78)
Paul Davis	(81)
Kazar Kazarian	(101)
Kenneth Krikorian	(83)

Elected to Nominating Committee:

Seth Bilazarian	(93)
Kay Garabedian	(99)
George Megrđichian	(73)
Alice Papazian	(71)
Ludwig Stepanian	(79)

Elected to Auditing Committee:

Tina Bilazarian	(90)
George Migridichian	(71)
Robert Shooshan	(75)

Total vote - 154

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 1978 , Asbed Zakarian, congratulated the newly elected members, and proceeded to thank his committee and all those who helped in various capacities.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Assembly, commended and thanked Asbed and his committee for a splendid job and for undertaking this task.

The Chairman then asked for comments and response to the format of the Assembly. It was suggested that polling could start at 10:00 A.M. to allow more to vote and that election of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary take place prior to the Assembly Meeting. Father Yeghishe offered the suggestion that election of same might take place in Church immediately after the Badarak and prior to the meeting, since it is proper and acceptable, and that perhaps this procedure might be used at next year's assembly.

It was also suggested that balloting take place another day prior to the assembly meeting in order to dispense with this step, but Hayr Yeghishe explained that it was common practice to conduct all business in one day.

Margaret Hagopian entertained the idea of changing the date of the Annual Assembly to sometime in October, but the Chairman stated

that the January meeting is in accord with the laws of the Diocese.

Peter Nalbandian made a motion that the Cultural Center mortgage in the amount of \$24,000.00 be paid this year. However, the Charmain explained that due to the low interest rate, it would be more advantageous to hold off for another year.

There being no further business before the assembly it was moved that we adjourn the meeting. With regard to the format of the day, it was recommended the minutes of the meeting be waived due to the length of same and to afford the secretary time to edit it in good form. Motion was made, seconded and passed to so do. The motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 P.M. was seconded, and passed. Closing prayer was given by Der Garabed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. Yeghiche Gizirian*

Very Reverend Yeghishe Gizirian  
President

*Zarvin Kasparian*  
Zarvin Kasparian  
Chairman

*Rose Paloian*  
Rose Paloian  
Secretary