



Armenian Church Of Our Saviour

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Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian
Pastor

MINUTES - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts was held on Sunday, January 25, 1981 in the church hall proper immediately following the church services with approximately 104 in attendance.

The polls were opened at 11:30 a.m. for balloting for members of the Parish Council, Diocesan Delegates, Nominating and Auditing Committees respectively.

After lunch which was prepared and served by the Senior Ladies Auxiliary, the meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m. in the lower hall of the Cultural Center, under the Acting Chairman, Mr. Gilbert Markarian; presiding Pastor, Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian; and Mr. Zarvin Kasparian, Chairman of the Parish Council.

The first business at hand performed by Mr. Markarian was to call for nominations and elections of officers for the Assembly. Mr. Gilbert Markarian and Mr. Vahan Pogharian were nominated and the election ended in a tie. Agreement by both candidates, Gilbert Markarian and Vahan Pogharian, to serve in the capacity as co-chairmen, was accepted by the Assembly. Mrs. Mary Arakelian was elected secretary.

On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair extended special thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian and her committee for a most delicious and enjoyable lunch.

During the invocation, Rev. Father Kochakian led the Assembly in a moment of silent prayer of thanksgiving for the safety and freedom of our brave hostages.

The report of the Pastor was read by Rev. Father Kochakian. The following omission was noted and acknowledged: The bequest of \$1,000.00 stated in the will of Mrs. Sara Manooshian. The emphasis of our relationship with all non-Armenian churches in Worcester, through our membership with the Ecumenical Council of churches, and The Worcester County Orthodox-Catholic Dialogue Association has strengthened our awareness of Christian Unity.



Mr. Markarian then turned the Chair over to Mr. Pogharian to continue the business of the day.

The reading of the Parish Council report was waived, and the Chair asked for comments and suggestions relative to same. Several items were brought to the attention of the members for discussion and clarification:

Reference, Page 18, Paragraph 2- inadvertently, the amount of the check of \$500.00 was omitted.

Reference, Page 18, Paragraph 7- request that the words "private meal" and "consultation" be taken out of context in said paragraph.

In response to the many inquiries on the status of the demolition of the Parish House, Zarvin Kasparian reported that, it is still in the preliminary stages, and the study of feasibility of same has been initiated. A more detailed report will be forthcoming in the near future.

Congratulations and well wishes were extended to our own Francis Merzigian, son of Mr. & Mrs. John Merzigian, who has enrolled in the study of Theology, and at present, is attending the Hellenic College-Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Ma.

After a lengthy discussion which prevailed on the formation of an ad hoc committee to undertake the enormous task in planning of the 100th. Anniversary of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, a motion was made by George Herosian, to form a committee to research the history of this Parish in anticipation of the 100th. Anniversary. Said committee to submit a progress report at the next Annual Assembly. Motion made, seconded and passed.

The following correction has been noted: Mrs. Thomasian's first name should read Margaret instead of Agavni.

There being no further comments or suggestions, motion made, seconded and carried to accept the Parish Council Report.

On behalf of the Parish Membership Committee, Mr. John Toromanian reported the committee has been active throughout the 1980 year, and certainly looks forward to the continued support of everyone involved.

Continuing the Agenda, Item 5-the Chair asked the Assembly to review the Report of the Auditing Committee (The Financial Reports, pages 20-25 inclusive), and then direct their comments and questions to Mr. Herbert Alexander, Treasurer of the Parish Council. Mr. Alexander's response of clarification encompassed varied areas, i.e. the memorial pictures, altar flowers, restricted funds, anticipated figures, endowment funds, gas and fuel oil and sundry items, etc. With no further discussion, it was moved, seconded and voted to approve the 1980 Financial Statement, exclusive of the Anticipated 1981 Budget.

A request was made that the Auditing Committee members make every effort to be present at the Assembly.

The Proposed Budget for 1981 was reviewed with few comments for clarification and understanding. Comparison between priority areas were clearly noted accordingly, due to the report being submitted as a deficit budget. The Assembly then voted, approved and accepted the 1981 Budget as submitted.

Mr. Pogharian asked the assembly to waive the reading of the Reports as submitted by the Church Auxiliary Organizations and proceed with any comments and discussions on all the reports.

The following reports were accepted as written:

The Senior Ladies Auxiliary; The Avak Group; The Ekmalian Choir; Sunday Church School; Cultural Organization; The Women's Guild; and the Libray Committee.

Armenian School: There are 22 students enrolled at the present time. Several comments of concern were voiced to rejuvenate the Language School and to recruit new students.

ACYOA Seniors: A new senior group has been formed- more information will be forth coming soon.

It was suggested that there should be a representative from both junior and senior groups attending the Annual Assembly. Upon this suggestion the youth amongst the assembly identified themselves as such representatives.

ACYOA Juniors: Accepted as written.

It was noted that there was very limited attendance at the Assembly by members of the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors. Mr. Torkom Boyajian recommended that the items of interest to the youth should be placed early on the Agenda, and then they could be discussed with the youth involved.

Motion made that all the reports submitted by the Auxiliary Organizations, be accepted, seconded and carried unanimously.

Upon completion of Items 1 through 7 of the Agenda, the Assembly was ready to discuss the last item on the agenda - New Business: the introduction of the Parish Councils' two part recommendations:

Mr. Pogharian then turned the meeting over to Mr. Markarian to Chair.

Question 1. Consideration be given to eliminating charges for Sacrament Services for members in good standing.

Question 2. The Parish Council increases the minimum pledge to \$2.00 per week per member.

The Sacrament Services include-Baptisms, Weddings, as well as the Funeral Service.

There were many questions concerning the proposal i.e., "What is meant by good standing?"..."In a marriage, must both parties be members in good standing?" etc., etc.

As the questions and problems mounted, it was at that point that Mr. Markarian requested that the Parish Council review all the ramifications of said proposal, and bring the results to another scheduled meeting at a later date which the assembly approved.

Dues Increase:

Minimum pledge be increased to \$2.00 per week per member.

several objections to the increase were noted.

Last increase established approximately 12 years ago.

minimum dues set by the Diocese, but same can be increased by local church.

consideration for retirees and students will continue.

Mr. Zarvin Kasparian reviewed graphic charts for comparison (income vs. expenses) for a clearer understanding for the purpose of the recommended pledge increase.

After reviewing all the comments and suggestions, the Parish Council's recommendation that the minimum pledge be \$2.00 effective immediately. Motion made, seconded and carried.

The Chair called on Mrs. Sylvia Migridichian to report the results of the balloting. Mrs. Migridichian reported that 218 ballots were cast. The results of the election are as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL

Lutwig (Jerry Stepanian	138 votes	elected
Arthur Yagjian	130 votes	elected
Asbed Zakarian	121 votes	elected
Kenneth Krikorian	115 votes	elected
Marion Aharonian	93 votes	elected
Anne Hovenesian	70 votes	1st. alternate
Harry Dostourian	66 votes	
Avedis Choolfaian	61 votes	
Gilbert Markarian	52 votes	(write-in)
Stephen Jorjorian	40 votes	
Alexander Bilzerian	37 votes	

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Zarvin Kasparian	138 votes	elected
John Merzigian	134 votes	elected
Bartev DerBagdasarian	122 votes	elected
Seth Bilazarian	104 votes	elected
John Toromanian	102 votes	elected
Suney Kachadoorian	94 votes	elected
George Herosjan	62 votes	1st. alternate
Torkom Boyajian	71 votes	
Nersess John Kabian	71 votes	
Francis Najarian	69 votes	
Garry Degermajian	62 votes	
Harry Shagian	52 votes	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

William Aslanian	144 votes	elected
Berjoohi Zakarian	139 votes	elected
Frances Elloian	119 votes	elected
Mary Tateosian	102 votes	elected
Rose Toromanian	102 votes	elected
Bizer Simonian	101 votes	1st. alternate
Carnig Alexanderian	100 votes	
Dirouhe IshTemejian	63 votes	
Arsene Bajakian	44 votes	
Gladys Bagdasarian	27 votes	

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Edward J. Bilzerian	148 votes	elected
Herbert Alexander	128 votes	elected
Bartev Der Bagdasarian, Jr.	122 votes	elected
Gladys Nordigian	70 votes	1st. alternate

The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. Migridichian, congratulated the newly elected members, and extended her sincere gratitude and thanks to her Committee for doing such a superb job with love and dedication.

On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair thanked Mrs. Migridichian and her Committee for their efficient and well organized manner in which they performed their given task.

Since the 1980 Annual Assembly Minutes had not been approved earlier in the meeting, a motion to accept the same was made, seconded and carried.

There being no further business before the assembly, it was moved that we adjourn the meeting. It was recommended that the reading of the minutes of the meeting be waived due to the length of same, and also, allow the secretary time to edit it in good form. Motion was made, seconded and passed to do so. The motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 p.m. was seconded and passed.

The closing prayer and blessing was given by our own Pastor Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian.


Respectfully submitted,



Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian
Pastor and President



Gilbert Markarian
Co-Chairman



Vahan Pogharian
Co-Chairman



Mary Arakelian
Secretary