

MINUTES - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 1984

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts, convened on Sunday, January 29, 1984 in the Church Hall immediately following Church services.

The polls were open from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for the balloting of members to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. Luncheon was prepared and served by Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian with the assistance of the Nominating Committee. All present at the Assembly agreed that it was delicious.

The Assembly was called to order by Chairman Francis Najarian at 1:35 p.m. with Reverend Deacon Onnig Terzian, Deacon-in-Charge, presiding. Deacon Onnig lead the Assembly in the opening prayer.

It was noted that 117 people were in attendance. Mr. Najarian then called upon Dr. Vahram Uluhogian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the nominations for the officers of the Parish Assembly. Mr. Francis Najarian and Mr. Bartevo DerBagdasarian were nominated for Chairman of the 1984 Assembly. A closed vote was taken and Mr. Najarian was elected as Chairman. Dr. Uluhogian then announced that Rose Aslanian (Mrs. William) was a nominee for Secretary of the Assembly and called for nominations from the floor. There being no other nominations, Mr. Avedis Choolfaian cast one vote, which was seconded, to elect Mrs. Aslanian as Secretary.

Chairman Najarian called for the adoption of agenda items as follows:

1. Election of Officers of the Assembly
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Reading of the minutes of previous Assembly
4. Report of Assistant Pastor
5. Report of the Parish Council
6. Report of the Auditing Committee
7. Reports of all organizations
8. Approval of proposed 1984 Budget
9. Report on Parish House Study
10. New Business.,

Chairman Najarian asked for any new business items to be placed on the Agenda. There were no new business items at this time.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Berjoochie Zakarian and seconded by Mr. John Kabian, it was VOTED: to adopt the Agenda as presented.

At this point it was suggested, and the Assembly agreed, to waive the reading of the Minutes of the 1983 Parish Assembly and of the individual organizational reports. The Chair would call for discussions and questions on a page by page review, since all in attendance had copies of "The Annual Reports, 1983."

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - 1983

Upon a motion made by Mr. George Herosian and seconded by Mr. Arthur Yagjian, it was VOTED: to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly - 1983.

ASSISTANT PASTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Van Aroian asked the Assistant Pastor, Reverend Deacon Onnig Terzian, if the statement in paragraph 3 of his report, "to continue his education," was the only reason Reverend Father Yeznig Balian had resigned. Deacon Onnig responded that the reason given in Father Yeznig's letter of resignation was "to continue his education." After some discussion on this subject, Mr. George Herosian suggested that the questions be directed to the Parish Council.

Parish Council member, Mr. Asbed Zakarian, stated that the writing is valid and that the statement is accurate and correct as recorded. Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Zarvin Kasparian, quoted the following portion of the letter dated June 2, addressed to Father Yeznig, from the Primate, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, in the hope that it would clarify the difference between fact and impression - "Therefore, in the present situation a decision is left to be made by you. Either to continue according to our designed and agreed plan and serve in Worcester, or leaving out your educational plans and desire to be a full-time pastor. In the case of the latter decision, we will make the efforts to make proper arrangements in our Diocese for you."

Mr. Van Aroian asked if Father Yeznig was extended the opportunity to be the Pastor of the Church of Our Saviour.

Mr. Harry Sogigian stated that, in his opinion, reading from a letter sent to the parishioners, dated June 13, by the Parish Council, it became obvious to him that two heads were appointed to our Church, thereby creating the problem!

Mr. Arsen Najarian referred to a petition with 240 signatures and a letter which were forwarded to the Primate, to which there was no response. He asked if the Parish Council was aware of this correspondence and, if so, why did they not follow-up on the matter. Mr. Zarvin Kasparian, on behalf of the Council, stated that Father Yeznig informed the Parish Council that he had forwarded a petition to the Primate, and the Primate would act on it.

Mr. Vahan Pogharian remarked that some of the misunderstanding between us may have been avoided, perhaps, if the Parish Council had informed the 1983 Assembly the conditions under which Father Yeznig and Deacon Onnig had been assigned to this Parish.

Chairman Najarian stated that we are one family, that mistakes and misunderstandings occur in all families, and that they should be forgiven and learned from.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Berjoochie Zakarian and seconded by Mr. Avedis Choolfaian, it was VOTED: to accept the Assistant Pastor's report.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Van Aroian asked the Parish Council if the Council maintained an open meeting policy. The Parish Council's response "yes", that anyone is welcome to attend meetings, but that the office should be notified a week or so beforehand, in order that the agenda can be planned accordingly. Mr. Aroian stated that an open meeting policy should be an open meeting policy without condition, and that no one should be barred or ejected from a meeting.

It was pointed out by Chairman Najarian that this issue should have been brought up as an item under New Business when Agenda items were being discussed earlier. It was stated by several Assembly members that they did not understand that specific new business items were being called for, in order to have them listed under New Business, when the Agenda was being discussed for adoption.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Van Aroian and seconded by Mr. Harry Sahagian, it was VOTED: to modify the adopted Agenda under New Business.

The five items requested to be discussed under New Business are as follows:

1. Assembly consider the policy of Parish Council open meetings - Mr. Van Aroian
2. Use of Cultural Center - Mrs. Ruth Haddon
3. Use of van donated by Mrs. Hannah Kalajian - Mr. Haroutune Kasparian
4. Status of permanent pastor - Mr. George Herosian
5. Feasibility of two-part Parish Assembly - Mr. Kenneth Krikorian.

At this point Chairman Najarian resumed with the Parish Council report.

The next topic of discussion was a request from Mr. Harry Sahagian to clarify "Return of vehicle donated by Mr. John Fashjian". It was explained that the vehicle Father Yeznig was using was a loan, and not donated, for the use of the Pastor for one year. This was a special arrangement between Mr. Fashjian and Chrysler Corp. whereby this vehicle was loaned to the Church, with Mr. Fashjian paying the monthly lease fee of \$350 to Chrysler Corp. The question was asked as to whether or not another loan would be possible, and Mr. Abe Sivazlian explained that Mr. Fashjian was unable to make the same arrangement with Chrysler Corp. for the continuance of another year.

Upon a motion made by Ms. Berjoochie Zakarian and seconded by Mr. Andrew Sarkisian, it was VOTED: to accept the Parish Council report.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Mr. Herbert Alexander reported that the Committee audited the Church books and found them to be in good order.

Upon a motion made by Mr. John Kabian and seconded by Mr. George Herosian, it was VOTED: to accept the Auditing Committee's report.

SR. LADIES AUXILIARY

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian and seconded by Mr. Harry Sahagian, it was VOTED: to accept the Sr. Ladies Auxiliary report.

AVAKS

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian and seconded by Mr. Avedis Choolfaian, it was VOTED: to accept the Avaks report.

EKMALIAN CHOIR

Asked if the Margaret E. Hagopian Memorial Fund is being used in any way, Mrs. Hazel Eljanian reported that one choir member, Mary K. Elloian, has taken voice lessons and another, Mrs. Karen Casey, is taking organ lessons.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Lucy Kasparian and seconded by Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian, it was VOTED: to accept the Ekmalian Choir report.

ARMENIAN LANGUAGE SCHOOL

In answer to some questions concerning the status of the Armenian School, Chairman Najarian called upon Deacon Terzian to enlighten the Assembly as to the developments of the Armenian Language School. Deacon Onnig reported that numerous attempts had been made, through mailings, announcements, telephone calls and personal contacts to parishioners, to start Armenian Language classes. Two dates for registration were calendared, but there was minimal response. The parents promised to bring their children, but did not show up on registration day. Therefore, the school is presently inactive.

A suggestion was made to conduct the Language School and the Sunday School concurrently on Sundays, and it was also suggested that a feasibility study be made concerning this. The Assistant Pastor was encouraged to proceed with efforts to reactivate the Armenian Language School.

Upon a motion made by Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian and seconded by Mr. John Sagarian, it was VOTED: to accept the Armenian Language School report.

Upon motions made and seconded, it was VOTED: to have the following reports accepted as written.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
LIBRARY COMMITTEE
WOMEN'S GUILD
ACYOA SENIORS
ACYOA JUNIORS.

THE MESSENGER

An expression of thanks was given to Ms. Marilyn Markarian and the Messenger staff.

The omission of the Sr. Women's Auxiliary Mid-Lenten supper is noted under - Activities in 1983.

Upon a motion made and seconded, it was VOTED: to accept the Messenger report with the above notation.

BEANO ACTIVITY REPORT - 1983

It was noted that this report will be a part of the Annual Reports hereafter. A vote of thanks was expressed to the Beano Committee, and to those who had the foresight to originate Beano a number of years ago.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Arthur Yagjian and seconded by Mr. Abe Sivazlian, it was VOTED: to accept the Beano Activity Report - 1983.

At this point the omission of the name of Mrs. Ruth Haddon, Chairman, Cultural Organization, under the listing of CHURCH ORGANIZATION CHAIRMEN - 1983, (back cover-page of Annual Report) was noted.

1984 PROPOSED BUDGET

The following questions regarding the Proposed Budget were asked, to which Chairman Zarvin Kasparian responded, on behalf of the Parish Council.

Q. What does the figure of \$30,000, under Salaries & Other Services, represent?

A. It is the same as last year - secretary, custodians, choir directors, organists, etc.

Q. Why is the Building Maintenance figure so high?

A. The concrete shoulders around the Church and also the stucco around the arches of the Cultural Building are in bad shape and in need of repair. These are some of the anticipated repairs.

Q. Why is the assessment to the Diocese so high?

A. The Canadian parishes now have their own Diocese and are no longer a part of ours. The percentage of the total Diocesan assessment formerly borne by the Canadian parishes will have to be absorbed, pro rata, by the Eastern Diocese parishes. Also, the 1983 Diocesan Assembly voted a sum of \$25,000 for the Theological Education Fund. This sum is to be assessed on a pro rata basis to each parish in our Diocese.

Q. Line item "Church Car Replacement." Is the Church planning on purchasing a new car?

A. Not immediately - but the present car is not in good working condition and eventually will need to be replaced. It was therefore deemed advisable to begin to build up a fund to purchase a new one, when necessary.

Q. Why is the Automobile Allowance slightly high?

A. It has been the same for about five years.

A question was raised regarding the Equipment Purchases figure and what it represented. Mr. Leon Kachadoorian responded that the large freezer in the Cultural Center is not working efficiently and that plans to replace it with new freezers are being made; that the refrigerator in the Church Hall kitchen needs replacement; and that the copying machine in the Church office needs to be replaced.

Mr. Torkom Boyajian asked why there was a difference in figures in the Transfer Account on page 24 and on page 18. The Assembly was informed that the noted difference was a result of the amount of money transferred by the Beano Committee in accordance with the Massachusetts Lottery Commission rules and regulations. The additional sum, having been accumulated over a period of time rather than over the course of one year, may not be available in the future.

Upon a motion made by Mr. George Herosian and seconded by Ms. Berjoohe Zakarian, it was VOTED: to accept the 1984 Proposed Budget.

Mr. George Herosian now complimented the Council for having kept the actual expenses of 1983 below the proposed budget figure.

PARISH HOUSE STUDY

Chairman Kasparian reported that at the last Special Parish Assembly the Council was charged to come up with the study and figures on three options for the Parish House. They were (1) to tear down the existing building and construct a new one, (2) to utilize the lower front area of the Cultural Center and, (3) to look into refurbishing the existing Parish House. He informed this Assembly that several contractors, architects and the WRA were contacted and all the above possibilities have been examined. He asked when the Assembly would like to hear the reports.

Upon a motion made by Mr. George Herosian and seconded by Ms. Bizer Simonian, it was VOTED: to request the Parish Council to call a special parish assembly within 60 days to discuss the status of the Parish House.

A couple of suggestions were made to the Parish Council for the special parish assembly. One by Mr. Harry Sahagian to have proposals available prior to the special assembly; and a second suggestion by Mr. George Herosian that the Council be prepared to give estimated figures as to what each project will cost.

At this point, Assembly Chairman Najarian called upon the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Vahram Uluhogian, for the election results. Dr. Uluhogian reported that 199 ballots were cast, and that the results of the election were as follows:

Elected to PARISH COUNCIL:

Mr. Ghevont Hagopian
Ms. Anne Hovanesian
Mr. Leon Kachadoorian
Mr. Haroutune Kasparian
Ms. Marilyn Markarian
Mr. John Elloian - 1st Alternate

Elected to NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Mr. Seth Bilazarian
Mr. Bryan Davis
Mr. Kenneth Krikorian
Mrs. Nancy Naroian
Mr. Charles Sharigian
Mr. Archie Shadbegian - 1st Alternate

Elected to AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Mr. Nubar Noorjanian
Mr. Henry Shooshan
Ms. Pamela Davis - 1st Alternate

Upon a motion made by Mr. Vahan Pogharian and seconded by Mr. Torkom Boyajian, it was VOTED: to accept the Nominating Committee's report of the election results.

Mr. John Kabian addressed himself to the Nominating Committee, and to the Assembly, regarding the importance of the Nominating Committee, and the fact that this year's ballot fell short of the number of candidates required for each post, as stated in the By-Laws - which is at least double the number of vacancies for the election. The legality of this ballot was questioned by Mr. George Herosian. Deacon Onnig stated that the ballot, together with the results, are forwarded to the Primate, and that it would be his decision to make.

A request to announce the number of votes received by each candidate was made once again. Chairman Najarian referred to a motion, on the same request, which was defeated by the 1983 Assembly. (Pg. 7 of 1983 report). It was also noted that the results are a matter of record and can be seen upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Policy of Parish Council open meetings.

Discussion on the above subject was the first item under New Business.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Van Aroian and seconded by Mr. Harry Sahagian, it was VOTED: that parishioners be allowed to attend Parish Council meetings without prior notice. However, if they request an agenda item these items must be submitted to the office one week before the Parish Council meeting.

2. Use of Cultural Center Building

The use of the Cultural Center was brought up by Mrs. Ruth Haddon. A discussion ensued concerning the priorities for the use of the building by the various organizations. After much discussion Mrs. Haddon withdrew her inquiry.

3. Use of van donated by Mrs. Hannah Kalajian

Mr. Haroutune Kasparian wanted to know the status of the van and what the Council has done to implement its use.

On behalf of the Council, Mr. Asbed Zakarian informed the Assembly that the Parish Council spent many hours during the course of the year discussing the van. Some of the problems they encountered were: special insurance; drivers; and geographic locations of the elderly parishioners. Recent pleas for volunteer drivers were unsuccessful. As an example of the frustration experienced by the Council in putting the van into use, Mr. Zakarian related his experience at a recent attempt in contacting 40 elderly persons in order to transport them to Church. Only two of these people contacted gave a firm commitment to attend Church, and because of the convenience to him, Mr. Zakarian used his own vehicle for their transportation. This discussion ended with the commitment by the Parish Council to contact the donor, Mrs. Kalajian, regarding the future of the van.

4. Status of permanent pastor.

Mr. George Herosian inquired what the status of a permanent pastor was.

It was stated that the Parish Council is in constant communication with our Primate in endeavoring to obtain a permanently assigned pastor.

5. Two-part annual parish assembly

Mr. Kenneth Krikorian suggested that the Parish Council look into the feasibility to have the annual parish assembly convene in two sessions. In response, Parish Council said they would look into the practical aspect of a two-part annual parish assembly, or any other format lending itself to proper conduct of the assembly in accordance with the By-Laws.

At this point Chairman Najarian thanked the Nominating Committee and its volunteers and, also, Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian for the preparation of a delicious meal.

There being no further business before the Assembly, it was moved, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting, and 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. Deacon Onnig closed the meeting with a prayer at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Onnig Terzian

Reverend Deacon Onnig Terzian
Deacon-in-Charge

Francis Najarian

Francis Najarian
Assembly Chairman

Rose Aslanian

Rose Aslanian (Mrs.)
Secretary