

MINUTES OF 1987 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts convened on Sunday, February 22, 1987, in the Church Hall. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and chaired by holdover Chairman Edward S. Bilzerian.

Following a prayer by Der Aved, the Chairman called upon Mr. Barry Bilzerian, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, to announce the Chairperson and Secretary for the current assembly.

The Nominating Committee placed the name of Mr. Edward S. Bilzerian for Chairman. Additional nominations were ordered from the floor. There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. The assembly cast (1) one vote for Mr. Bilzerian to serve as Chairman of this Assembly.

The Nominating Committee did not offer any candidates for the position of secretary, therefore called for nominations from the floor. Mrs. Elizabeth (Pilibosian) Sheehan was nominated. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Barry Bilzerian, and seconded to elect Mrs. Sheehan as Secretary for the Assembly. Again, the assembly was asked to cast (1) one vote for Mrs. Sheehan to serve as secretary.

Mr. Barry Bilzerian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the following names as nominees for a seat on the Parish Council:

Dr. Robert Anusbigian
Barry Bilzerian
Edward Bilzerian, Jr.,
Arthur Derderian
Marsha Hovenesian
Stephen Jorjorian
Gladys Nordigian
Charles Sharigian
Arthur Surabian.

There being no additional nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded that the assembly accept the list as read.

The following names of candidates for the Nominating Committee were presented to the Assembly:

William Aslanian
Dr. Richard Bedrosian
Kay Garabedian
Michael Markarian
Marjorie Mesrobian
Louis Mikitarian
L. Jerry Stepanian
Berjoochie Zakarian

There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to close nominations.

Nominees for Auditing Committee were:

Edward Bilzerian, Sr.
Bryan Davis
Richard Dodakian
Mark Mikitarian.

There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the list accepted as presented.

The Chairman presented the agenda as printed and asked for adoption by the parish assembly. It was so moved and voted.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch and elections.

Balloting was closed at 12:30 p.m. and the second session of the assembly began.

The Chairman thanked the ladies who prepared the delicious luncheon.

Ground rules for the benefit of the secretary were that each person speaking identify themselves first before making motions.

The counting of hands of members in good standing showed 127 present.

Mr. Bilzerian, Chairman, dispensed with the reading of the Annual Report since the report had been available for over a week for review by the parishioners. The Chairman reviewed the report on a page by page basis and the following comments were made:

1. Minutes of the 1986 Parish Assembly stood with no corrections except that on page seven under New Business - Mrs. Zakarian was changed to read as Mr. Zakarian. A motion was made by Mr. Zareh Markarian and seconded by Miss Berjoochie Zakarian that page seven be passed as corrected.

- a. Berjoochie Zakarian commented that the report was out only one week prior to the assembly and should have been out two weeks prior. It was so noted.

2. The Diocesan Assembly Report was read and a motion was made by George Krikorian, which was seconded, to accept it as read.

3. The Pastor's Report - The Der Hayr noted that "Young" from the title of the Women's Guild should be deleted. A correction on page eighteen should read, Dr. Richard Bedrosian. Mr. George Krikorian suggested that on page eleven where the visiting dignitaries were listed that the names of those baptized and married for the year should also be listed. Although there was no vote on this matter, it was noted for future consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Avedis Choolfaian which was seconded to accept the Pastor's Report.

4. The Parish Council Report was accepted as presented.

Referring back to page seventeen, (in appreciation) Mrs. Kay Garabedian mentioned that Mr. Peter DerKazarian had removed the snow all winter from around the church and that it should be added to the Pastor's Report. This comment was noted and added to Parish Council's Report as Item 26A.

Vahan Pogharian asked for clarification of investments under #19 on page 20. He was asked to save question for later.

Page twenty-two - item #3 regarding computer data input. John Sagerian asked to just who would be running the machines and what data would be stored. He was advised that this project was still in the adjustment stage and would be decided at a later date when they were more sure of what they were doing.

A motion was made by Berjoochie Zakarian and seconded by Barry Bilzerian to accept the Parish Council Report.

The Chairman asked for a report by the Auditing Committee. Vahan Pogharian noted that the 1985 budget was \$223,700.00 and that actual income in 1986 was \$323,271.54.

Budget	Actual Expenditures	Actual Expenditures
1986-\$205,900.00	\$190,608.04-1986	\$201,162.77-1985

On page twenty-five - Harry Sogigian asked what was meant by Memorial Biographies. Jerry Stepanian suggested they be called Memorial pictures. Harry Sogigian said that the pictures always referred to Benefactors. Harry Sogigian moved that the phrase Memorial Biographies in Schedule A be changed to read Memorial Benefactors of Church of Our Saviour. The motion was defeated by the assembly.

Ms. Anne Hovenesian made a motion that the word pictures be changed to photographs in the pangal. It was asked by Scott Najarian as to just how the pictures get placed in the pangal. A discussion ensued. Der Hayr mentioned that those who wish to contribute a sum of \$100.00 or more can have a picture put there. Steve Migrididichian stated that some people have no pictures available, namely those who came through the massacre and their families wished to have their memorial in the pangal, therefore, we should leave the word biographies. Ms. Anne Hovenesian modified her motion to read Pictorial Biographies. The motion was carried.

Under Expenditures - Mr. Arsen Haroian stated that on page 27, Schedule H, should read Mr. and Mrs. Arsen Haroian and Lucine Haroian. The correction was noted.

Pages 28 through 31 gave a detailed financial picture thru various schedules. George Krikorian stated that there was typographical error and that Schedule C should read Schedule D.

Berjoochie Zakarian questioned Schedule C regarding fund for cemetery plot. Der Hayr reported that these lots were donated to the church, and the lots are to be used to bury Armenians who otherwise would go to paupers field.

Referring to Schedule C, Louis Mikitarian requested that under ACYOA the words "Sports Weekend" be deleted from the report and the word Seniors should be added.

Again in Schedule C, Vahan Pogharian questioned the expense of the Ekmalian Choir for \$345.60. He was told that the donations from the Sunday plate collection were sent the Choir Association.

On Schedule D - the cost of glass replacements was questioned. It was

stated that the Sunday School windows get broken. Since they are double windows, they are therefore expensive to replace.

Nancy Hovhanesian questioned the \$150.00 listed as a donation under the transfer account. It was clarified that since it was donated money and was used for a plot therefore it was considered a donation.

Under Schedule E - Asbed Zakarian stated that the Treasurer was not here to make a clearer report. Berjoochie Zakarian questioned the amount of only \$10.00 for Easter flower donations. Total donated was stated as correct by Chairman Bilzerian as that is how it was recorded and audited by the auditing committee.

Under Schedule F - John Sagerian asked if a word processor was purchased or was it a computer? The question was postponed for later discussion under the systems update.

Page 30 - It was pointed out that \$402,016.58 available to the church at the beginning of the year while a sum of \$534,680.08 is available at the end of the year. A growth of \$132,000.00.

Motion was made by Jerry Stepanian and seconded by Abraham Sivazlian to accept this portion of the report. So moved and voted.

At this point the assembly was referred to page 23 to review the Stained Glass Committee's Report. Gary Hovhanesian noted a correction to be made by eliminating the numbers 9-10-11 but leaving the statements. Pictures were shown to the assembly. Five windows are committed, one is questionable, and four are uncommitted. A question was asked by Anne Hovenesian as to the cupola windows. Gary said they were deferred at this time because of major structural work that will be required to be done. The cost of the stained glass is approximately \$250.00 per square foot. This was in response to a question by Mr. John Sagerian. Mr. Hovhanesian stated that there will be a Bronze Memorial in an appropriate place for donors. Each window will have the names of the donors clearly visible beneath them.

Committee Reports were then reviewed.

Mrs. Armenouhe Jardarian stated that since the Senior Ladies have lasted this year they will another year.

The Avaks Report had no correction or questions.

Hazel Eljanian and her choir members were complimented for their work. Hazel extended an invitation to all to join, both men and women.

The Sunday School reported 70 children now registered in the school. Asbed Zakarian commended the working staff of the Sunday School for increasing the membership from 30-35 over recent years to the present total.

The Cultural Organization was commended by Gary Hovhanesian for the fantastic programs presented and wished the committee the best of luck.

The Library Committee, namely Harry Sogigian, was asked by Edward S. Bilzerian if outside groups were aware of the fact that the books were available. Harry stated that books availability was known to the

Public Library; also Der Hayr notifies students as he talks to them about the availability of the books. Edward S. Bilzerian suggested making a list of books available to the members.

The Report of the Women's Guild had no changes and their Liason, Steve Krikorian, commended the members of the Guild for their efforts and for the time which they have given to the work of the church.

ACYOA JRS. - Asbed Zakarian was encouraged by the efforts of the youth in re-activating the ACYOA Juniors.

Bingo - Asbed Zakarian said that Bart Bagdasarian and John Toromanian should get a big hand for their efforts.

Motion was made to accept this portion of the report by Steve Krikorian and seconded by Cecil Aslanian.

The Budget was then presented.

Income: \$234,100.00

Disbursements: \$234,100.00

Paul Andonian questioned the Special Fund-Raising Project total of \$35,000.00. Asbed Zakarian clarified the question by stating that it was for a project something on the scale of the rug sale.

Dorothy Yagjian questioned the Youth Ministry as to what it entailed. Asbed said that they are trying to get someone to act as part or full-time Director of Youth.

John Sagerian asked about the equipment purchase cost of \$20,000.00. Asbed Zakarian said that there are priorities and an alarm system is high on the list.

Edward J. Bilzerian wanted to know why pledges are down. Asbed stated that at the time the budgets were prepared the pledge number was developed on the basis of the actual results to date.

Motion to accept this portion of the report was presented by Abraham Sivazlian and seconded by Jerry Stepanian.

On the Agenda Sheet, Item #10 - under General Information handicap and elderly access, Jerry Stepanian reported on behalf of the Council that some type of equipment would be installed to aid the elderly and the handicap on the stairs. The investigation continues. A Chair-lift was discussed by Garaventa Industries. It has been suggested the Dean Street entrance was the best location for one. The cost being approximately \$14,000.00. Paul Andonian stated that the liability cost of such a piece of equipment could be enormous. Gary Hovhanesian suggested we keep the item on the agenda since something will eventually have to be done since the need is important. An elevator option is also being considered. Hands were in agreement by the assembly to keep the project active. Avedis Choolfaian suggested a temporary solution of a ramp outside right into the sanctuary then a ramp inside to church.

Second Item: Centennial Commemoration. Der Hayr stated that in 1990 the parish will host the Diocesan Assembly. The Assembly will coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Church in America. We are working on microfilming the existing documents of the Church for this event. The celebration of

the Assembly in 1990 will last 6 months till January 1991.

Item #3 - Gary Hovhanesian said that the computer program must first have bits and pieces fed into it before it can be fully used. Right now it is being used by the secretary and eventually it will be used for bookkeeping and accounting purposes. Other systems will be initiated this year. Der Hayr noted that a Radio Shack computer has been donated from John Sagerian. Gary Hovhanesian said that Herb Alexander donated the accounting software for the Computer system. Robert Shamgochian asked if various organizations will have access to the computer. Gary stated that right now all programs are processed by 1 or 2 persons. The rules for usage are indefinite at this time.

A Report on the Endowment Fund was made by Asbed Zakarian. On behalf of the Council, Asbed read the report and made the following motion: On December 10, 1986, the Parish Council voted to establish the Armenian Church of Our Saviour Memorial Endowment Fund for the purpose of administering all bequests. To execute this action a set of by-laws is being prepared by our legal counsel patterned after the Diocesan Endowment Fund. Therefore, the Parish Council moves that the creation of the Memorial Endowment Fund be approved by the parish assembly. The motion was seconded. George Krikorian wanted to know who had been handling the fund up till now. Arthur Yagjian reported that the Parish Council had been. Charlotte Calfaian asked for the difference in the Memorial Fund and In Lieu of Flowers. There was a general discussion about the fund and it was brought out that the Memorial Fund had nothing to do with In Lieu of Flowers. The motion was carried.

New Business: Vahan Pogharian stated that money is being invested in the stock market rather than in a savings account. He was advised that 80% of the portfolio is in Government Bonded Securities. He also stated that all church monies (including those in the treasury of the various Church organizations should be listed under funds available. Mr. Pogharian moved that the Parish Assembly Church Treasurer's Report add an item under funds available of organizations and bingo funds available. Seconded. Der Hayr stated that bingo money becomes church money only when it is turned over to the Church. Vahan withdrew the bingo portion from the original motion. The motion was defeated.

Gary Hovhanesian noted that the Parish Council has created an investment committee consisting of three Parish Council members. These members are responsible, not a broker for investments.

Mark Mikitarian asked what efforts have been made in the search for a youth ministry person. He was told by Der Hayr that no one is available yet but he is working with the Parish Council on a possible candidate.

Update on Regionalization: Robert Shamgochian asked for an update on Regionalization. Der Hayr advised that they are continuing this work and the Regional Committee is meeting with the Primate on March 21st.

Arpi Migridichian made a recommendation to establish a social service committee to make some small gesture when a parishioner is ill such as flowers or basket of fruit. The Guild has one and the Senior Ladies have one and feels the Church should have one.

A question was raised as to the Church needs. Gary Hovhanesian stated that there is a list in the office showing the needs of the Church.

Berjoochie Zakarian asked where the projectors are and why the Annual Report was not ready two weeks in advance of the Assembly. Der Hayr said the projectors were found. Asbed Zakarian responded that the printing of the booklets was short by only 2 days.

Tony Barsamian wanted to know what could be done about the acoustics in the cultural hall. Gary Hovhanesian said they tried to get an acoustics specialist in to check it out and he himself did a study. If the assembly feels it is a high priority, it can be moved up on the list. It will require a long study.

Steve Krikorian said that in light of the break-ins we have had the

- 1st priority is - Securing church and the property
- 2nd priority is - Elderly access
- 3rd priority is - Painting Church
- 4th priority is - Information system

Asbed Zakarian said that the parish can speak out as to what the needs of the Church are and the council will follow through. However, the Parish Assembly should not set priorities for the Council. Zareh Markarian suggested that the parishioners do some of the leg work to help out the Parish Council.

Berjoochie Zakarian said the air-conditioning of the Church is important for the seniors of the parish.

Dorothy Yagjian said we should leave work of the priorities up to the Council.

Ann Najarian brought out the fact that the lower kitchen needs attention. Ovens take too long to heat and boil water. Arthur said kitchen was just painted and fixed up. Jean Merzigian asked how to go about refurbishing the kitchen. Asbed Zakarian responded that the Council will look into this.

The Chairman of the Assembly asked for a list of priorities with the estimated amount of time and costs per item. Arthur Yagjian asked not to burden the Council because much of the things requested are not practical. Asbed suggested that parishioners write on paper any requests and put them into the office. Elizabeth Sheehan suggested that the Council delegate some of the work to capable parishioners in the parish to relieve some of the burden.

Arsen Haroian requested that there be a no smoking sign be posted in the hall at the Avaks meeting.

It was asked by Scott Najarian if the cultural center can be used for events that use liquor. Arthur Yagjian stated that it was high risk today and that only wine for a toast may be used at functions such as for dignitaries and weddings. Currently there will be no more liquor or beer sales on the premises.

At this point the Chair received the tabulated report from the Nominating Committee. Mr. Barry Bilzerian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee read the results.

New Parish Council Members are:

1. Dr. Robert Anusbigian

2. Barry Bilzerian 137
 3. Edward J. Bilzerian 121
 4. Charles Sharigian 115
 5. Arthur Surabian 82
- Marsha Hovenesian - First Alternate 77

New Nominating Committee Members are:

1. William Aslanian 138
2. L. Jerry Stepanian 122
3. Louis Mikitarian 112
4. Berjoochie Zakarian 109
5. Kay Garabedian 106
6. Dr. Richard Bedrosian - First Alternate 89

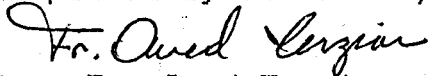
New Auditing Committee Members are:

1. Edward S. Bilzerian 122
2. Mark Mikitarian 83
3. Bryan Davis - First Alternate 67

There being no further business before The Assembly, Chairman Bilzerian asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Mr. George Krikorian, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Der Aved Terzian closed the meeting with a prayer at 3:30 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor



Edward S. Bilzerian, Assembly Chairman



Elizabeth Sheehan, Secretary