

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR  
Worcester, Massachusetts

The Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, MA convened on Sunday, February 26, 1989, in the Church Hall. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and chaired by holdover, Edward S. Bilzerian.

Following the prayer by Father Aved, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee George Migridichian placed in nomination Edward S. Bilzerian as Chairman for the Assembly. Nominations from the floor were asked for. With none forthcoming, a motion was made to close the nominations. The Secretary cast one vote for Mr. Bilzerian to serve as the Chairman of the Assembly.

The Nominating Committee offered the name of Betty Sheehan for the position of Secretary of the Assembly. Nominations from the floor were asked for and with none forthcoming, a motion was made to close the nominations. The Secretary cast one vote for Betty Sheehan to serve as the Secretary of the Assembly. Rose Paloian's name was also presented as an Assistant to the Secretary, and she accepted.

Chairman Bilzerian presented the Agenda for the meeting, which was made available to all voting members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Jerry Stepanian and seconded by Vahe Jardarian to accept the Agenda as presented. It was so voted.

The Chairman then presented George Migridichian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, who presented the following names as nominees for a seat on the Parish Council:

Stephen Jorjorian  
Richard Maksian  
John Merzigian, Jr.  
John Sagarian, Sr.  
Charles Sharigian  
Arthur Surabian

At this time a letter sent by nominee John Sagarian, Sr. was read at the author's request. The letter expressed the nominee's concerns and time limitations and the effect it would have should he be elected to serve on the Council.

At this time nominations from the floor were opened. Two names were given: Arthur Yagjian and Gregory Barsamian both of whom declined. There being no additional nominations, Jerry Stepanian moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Arthur Yagjian. The Assembly accepted the list as presented.

The following names of candidates for Diocesan Delegate were presented to the Assembly:

Van Aroian  
Edward Bilzerian, Sr.  
Garabed Hovhanesian  
Suney Kachadoorian  
Gilbert Markarian  
John Merzigian  
George Migridichian  
Francis Najarian  
Roger Papelian  
J. Ludwig Stepanian  
Arthur Yagjian  
Asbed Zakarian

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no other nominations from the floor, a motion was made by Charlotte Calfaian and seconded by Vahe Jardarian to close the nomination.

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

Pauline Agazarian  
Elizabeth Avakian  
Seth Bilazarian  
Pamela Der Kazarian  
Marsha Hovenesian  
Ann Mosessian  
Rose Paloian  
Sophie Shamgochian  
Betty Sheehan

Nominees for the Auditing Committee were:

Ruth Kaprelian  
Arpie Migridichian  
Norman Noorjanian  
Vahan Pogharian

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no further nominations from the floor, Arthur Yagjian motioned and seconded by Jerry Stepanian to close nominations.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch and elections.

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

The counting of members in good standing for the meeting showed 103 present.

Chairman Bilzerian dispensed with the reading of the 1988 Annual Report, since at the request of the 1987 Assembly, the report was available two weeks prior to the Assembly.

The Chairman reviewed the report page by page asking for corrections and modifications.

The following corrections are to be made with regard to the minutes:

Page 2 - the spelling of Jean Simonian's name was corrected.

Page 3 - correct the spelling of the word Council.

- a question was raised about the audit. Discussion was postponed to a later time when the Auditing Committee Report was to be reviewed.

Page 3 - "An addition" to read "In addition"

Page 4 - George Migridichian asked the name of the volunteer referred to. Father Aved gave the name of Mrs. Susan Hagopian-Gerber and added that she was no longer working on the project.

Page 8 - Francis Najarian asked about absentee ballots. Chairman Edward Bilzerian advised that the topic be brought up under New Business.

Page 8 - Arthur Elloian referred to his request at the 1987 Assembly, regarding the ballots, to read "Vote up to #". He was assured that the wording would be corrected in future years.

After the review was completed a motion was made by George Migridichian and seconded by Francis Najarian to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was carried.

The next item on the Agenda was a review of the Annual Reports of the Pastor and the Church Organizations.

#### The Pastor's Report

Page 25 - Jean Simonian's name was inadvertently omitted for assistance in the care of the Church vestments.

Francis Najarian questioned the special project of microfilming. Father Aved answered that the Armenian Genealogical Society is a part of the Mormon Church, who performed this service without charge.

It was moved by Hazel Eljanian and seconded by Pauline Agazarian to accept the Pastor's Report as amended. It was so moved.

#### Annual Report of the Parish Council

Page 28 - Arthur Yagjian complimented the Parish Council for their efforts regarding the painting of the Church interior. Francis Elloian asked if the pews were stripped and refinished. Edward J. Bilzerian responded that they were touched up and newly revarnished, as per the vote of the Special Assembly held on October 2, 1988.

Page 29 - Mark Mikitarian pointed out that the heading for the 100th Anniversary was missing. (inadvertently omitted)

A brief discussion was held regarding the 100th Anniversary and the importance of not delaying the organization of committees and the planning of this event.

Page 30 - Nancy Hovhanesian inquired about the Honor Roll. Charles Sharigian responded that it was being worked upon. Mark Markarian suggested that the Armenian Veterans' Club could be a source of information. Harry Sogigian offered to assist with contributions from the AGBU publication "Our Boys." Gary Hovhanesian said that World War I and World War II veterans would be included on the completed list. Betty Sheehan mentioned that she felt those that went to war as "gamavors" should be included as well. Suggestions were duly noted.

A motion was made by Mark Mikitarian and seconded by Arthur Yagjian to accept the Parish Council's Report. So moved.

#### Auditing Committee Report

##### The Comparative Statement of Income

Page 31 - Arthur Elloian pointed out the difference between the 1988 budget amount and the 1988 actual amount. Chairman Bilzerian pointed out that a favorable increase in revenue in Church Functions, Special Projects and Interest Income made the difference.

Page 33 - Harry Sogigian asked when the Carillon Chimes could be heard. It was answered that they could be heard on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and following Church Services.

A motion was made by Jerry Stepanian and seconded by Charles Sharigian to accept the Financial Reports as presented. So moved.

Reports of the Church Organizations were then reviewed.

The Avak Group Report - accepted as presented.

The Ekmalian Choir Report - accepted as presented.

Sunday School Report - in response to a question, the Superintendent Tara Stepanian responded that there were 90 students enrolled in the Sunday School.

Cultural Organization's Report - Elda Malesky questioned why it seemed that the Women's Guild was the only organization that turned over the majority of its funds to the Church at year-end. Father Aved responded that the Women's Guild is at this time the most financially successful organization of this Church, and is, as it always has been the backbone of the Church. Hopefully, with other organizations being revitalized and growing stronger, there will be other substantial contributions in the future.

Chairman Bilzerian stated that technically all funds belong to the Church and noted that as a member of the Auditing Committee most organizations have large ending balances. This matter should be reviewed by the Parish Council.

Library Committee Report - Harry Sogigian asked to have the period removed after last line "Come let us". At this time, Charles Sharigian asked if Armenian records were desired. Harry Sogigian said they would be welcomed, as well as tapes made from old collectable records.

Dorothy Yagjian pointed out that the AGBU Cookbooks that are for sale are now a project of the Library Committee.

Women's Guild Report - The name of Vice Chairlady "Marian" should be "Marion" - so noted.

Men's Club Report - Newly-elected Chairman of the Men's Club stated his desire for that organization to become the new "backbone" of the Church.

Senior Ladies Report - Father Aved responded to the question of why there was no report from this organization. He explained that this group was in the process of reorganization and a report will be presented at next year's Assembly.

ACYOA Seniors Report - was accepted as presented. Beth Bilbilian pointed out that there are 15 dues paying members and 75 on the mailing list.

Beano Activity Report - Francis Najarian asked if this was new, having a report from this group as part of the Annual Report Book. Chairman Bilzerian pointed out that it has been part of the bound report for the past 5 years. Asbed Zakarian stated that a separate insert makes no difference, it is still part of the budget reporting. John Toromanian stated that Beano has been in existence for 15 years and a separate report has been provided to the Assembly for each of those years. Since Beano has now become more acceptable as a fund-raising project, it has become a permanent part of our report.

John Toromanian, on behalf of Bart Bagdasarian and himself as co-chairman of Beano, thanked the many dedicated volunteers. He also stated that he felt that next year's Beano income would be closer to \$40,000 rather than the \$45,000 which is in the Proposed Budget. Arthur Surabian felt that the new acoustical system would increase attendance and income. John Toromanian also advised the Assembly that a \$10,000 contribution was made to the Diocese Earthquake Fund with the approval of the State Beano Commission.

A motion was made to accept Reports of the Church Organizations by Jerry Stepanian and seconded by Mark Markarian. So moved and voted.

Special appreciation was given to the countless volunteers and especially to the Parish Council Members for their outstanding contributions this year.

## Proposed Budget

Arthur Surabian - Chairman of the Parish Council made a correction to the Budget. Interest Income was reduced from \$31,500 to \$30,500 and the total income was to read \$269,300.

On the disbursement side, the Clergy stipend was adjusted to \$25,600 from \$26,600 changing the total disbursements to \$269,300.

Arthur Yagjian questioned the Diocesan Assessment. Was it an actual or anticipated figure? It was answered that it was an estimate.

Jerry Stepanian asked for an explanation of the Capital Expenditures Budget. Arthur Surabian responded that new chairs for the Church Hall, carpeting for the Church and Church Hall, and kitchen appliances were being considered. On the question of building maintenance, Arthur Surabian pointed out that outside face walls of the connector were peeling and needed immediate attention.

Arthur Yagjian questioned the high insurance premium cost. Edward J. Bilzerian responded that coverage was increased since the complex is currently insured for \$3,000,000.00

To the question of the Youth Ministry, Father Aved responded that Beth Bilbilian has been hired on a part-time basis as a Youth Co-ordinator. The Assembly was pleased with this appointment.

Scott Najarian asked if the \$10,000 Budget item for the Youth Ministry was for salaries? Edward J. Bilzerian stated that it was for salary but at the time the budget was prepared, no appointment had been made. Therefore, it was left as a separate line item. The Parish Council Chairman Arthur Surabian stated that if additional funds were needed for Youth Programs, they will be made available.

Charlotte Calfaian asked why on Page 31 no breakdown of income from Special Projects was given. Chairman Bilzerian pointed out that Page 35, Schedule G gives the breakdown.

Charlotte Calfaian suggested that income from Special Projects be listed as line items in the future. It was so noted. A question was raised concerning the proceeds of the Car Raffle. The gross proceeds were \$15,000 and net after taxes was \$13,750.

A motion was made by Steven Migridichian to accept the report. Seconded by Berjoochie Zakarian. Moved and carried.

At this point the meeting was turned over to Arthur Surabian, Chairman of the Parish Council, to give a report on Special Projects.

The first item presented was the air-conditioner for the Church. This had previously been directed by the Special Assembly in October for further study by the Parish Council. Two vendors were interviewed. After thorough review, the Council favored a proposal by Thermal Engineering. This proposal placed the units in the balcony of the Church. The units are self-contained. This proposal negates any kind of duct work as the pipes go outside. The estimated cost for the larger self-contained units (10 Ton) was \$31,000 to \$32,000 installed.

Margaret Zakarian made a motion for the Council to proceed with the project based on using the larger self-contained units. Seconded and voted. This was conditional on an evaluation of the noise factor as pointed out by Steve Jorjorian.

The second project discussed was the Handicap Access. Various alternatives were reviewed:

1. A stair lift not a chair lift. This would hold wheel chairs and cost \$30,000 to \$35,000 per lift.
2. An elevator. It would be a 4 stop elevator which would access from the ground level between the Church and the Cultural Center.

These projects could be financed by a mortgage plan and ammortized over 10 - 15 years. Cost would be somewhere in the vicinity of \$29,000/Yr including interest.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made to have the Parish Council continue investigating Handicap Access and report at a later date. Motion was seconded and carried.

#### Church Kneelers and Cushions

Marilyn Markarian reported on the project. The following prices were quoted from Jonell Upholstering Company on James Street: Pew cushions covered with vinyl; installation, foam, cloth and fireproofing included; 2 cushions per pew - cost: \$10,010.00. Cost for kneelers: \$4,896.00. Total cost for the project - \$14,900.00.

After much discussion, Nancy Hovhanesian made a motion, seconded by George Migridichian, to have pew cushions but no kneelers. Further discussion followed. Father Aved spoke briefly about the tradition of kneeling in the Armenian Church. Nancy Hovhanesian rephrased her motion to have cushions (without any reference to the kneelers), again seconded by George Migridichian. The motion was defeated.

A motion was made by Joan Handleman to have kneelers. Many questions were asked regarding the space and movement of the kneelers. The motion was also defeated.

#### Earthquake Relief Fund

Dr. Robert Anusbigian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, gave a report on the Earthquake Relief Fund. He reported that there was \$425,000.00 on hand as of date of the Assembly. He also reported on anticipated income, namely, profit from the recent Tony Bennett Concert - \$30,000.00; Realtors Association - \$14,700.00.

It was announced that the majority of the fund would be turned over to the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, at the Primate's visit to our parish on Palm Sunday (March 19, 1989).

Some discussion followed. Many parishioners vowed their continued support in our Parish's effort to raise \$1,000,000.00.

A discussion regarding a sizeable donation from the Parish's treasury followed. A motion was made by Scott Najarian, to not make a donation from the Parish's reserve funds, money has been given from individuals and many parishioners are working on special projects to reach the goal. The motion was seconded by Gary Hovhanesian.

Steve Jorjorian pointed out that if the motion passes, perhaps the issue can be brought up again at a special parish assembly.

Much discussion followed. The motion passed.

#### 100th Anniversary - Centennial Celebration

The Centennial Celebration will begin the first week of May 1990 with the Diocesan Assembly in Worcester. Arthur Surabian, Chairman of the Parish Council, stated that 150 rooms have already been reserved at the Marriott Hotel for that purpose. A special meeting will be called to make further plans.

Harry Sogigian pointed out that the first Divine Liturgy was held in August and that perhaps the Centennial Celebration could begin in August 1989.

Arthur Elloian asked who would absorb the costs of this Celebration. Father Aved answered that a modest profit will be made as hosts of the Diocesan Assembly, in addition to other profitable functions that may be held.

It was reported that in 1986 the Committee for the Centennial Celebration consisted of: The Primate, The Pastor, The Parish Council Chairman, The Past Parish Council Chairmen, Past and Present Diocesan Delegates, and Torkom Boyajian and Harry Sogigian. This committee will be expanded greatly.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### Absentee Ballots

Francis Najarian brought up the topic of Absentee Ballots. After much discussion, George Migridichian made a motion to have Father Aved, the Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates, take the necessary steps to present this concept to the Diocesan Assembly. The motion was seconded and passed.

Arthur Elloian inquired about the usage of the Cultural center and the Church's policy regarding liquor consumption. Edward J. Bilzerian stated that the one who is renting the Hall will be responsible to obtain the proper liquor liability insurance.

George Migridichian made a motion to reduce the number of Parish Council members from 11 to 9, thus having 5 members and 4 members elected on alternate years. The motion was seconded. Much discussion followed. Arthur Yagjian said that doing this would put much additional burden on the remaining members.



Mark Markarian stated that the burden of every function should not be placed upon the Council. Marcia Hovenesian said that more personal contact should be made to prospective nominees. Continued discussion followed, a vote was taken - the motion was defeated. The number of members on the Parish Council will remain 11.

Suney Kachadoorian commented that the Church was not recognized at the recent Tony Bennett Concert. Arthur Surabian, Chairman of the Parish Council, answered that this was not appropriate during the concert, but was done at the reception which followed.

Arsen Haroian questioned the necessity of the "no parking" signs on Dean Street. The Parish Council will look into this matter.

Scott Najarian offered the assistance of the youth on the 100th Anniversary Celebration project.

At this point, Chairman of the Nominating Committee George Migridichian was reintroduced. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, he thanked the group of ladies who prepared the luncheon, the Choir members who served the lunch, the officers of the Assembly, and John Toromanian and his crew of volunteers who tabulated the votes. He then offered his assistance to the newly-elected Nominating Committee.

The Ballots cast were as follows:

Parish Council:

Stephen Jorjorian	111	
Richard Maksian	117	
John Merzigian, Jr.	120	
Charles Sharigian	115	
Arthur Surabian	147	
Alternate - John Sagarian, Sr.		83

Diocesan Delegates:

Edward Bilzerian, Sr.	94	
Gary Hovhanesian	93	
Suney Kachadoorian	95	
John Merzigian	84	
Jerry Stepanian	71	
Asbed Zakarian	93	
Alternate - George Migridichian		69

Nominating Committee:

Pauline Agazarian	100	
Seth Bilazarian	92	
Rose Paloian	96	
Sophie Shamgochian	78	
Betty Sheehan	94	
Alternate - Ann Mosessian		77

Auditing Committee:

Ruth Kaprelian	78	
Norman Noorjanian	90	
Alternate - Vahan Pogharian		72

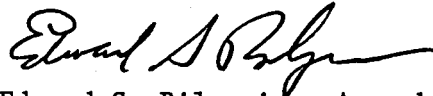
There being no further business before the Asembly, Chairman Bilzerian asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved and seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Father Aved then thanked Edward S. Bilzerian the Chairman of the Assembly, Elizabeth Sheehan, Secretary of the Assembly and Rose Paloian who assisted the Secretary. On behalf of all our parishioners, he then thanked the newly-elected and out-going members of the Parish Council; and Diocesan Delegates. He then closed the meeting with a prayer at 3:50 p.m.

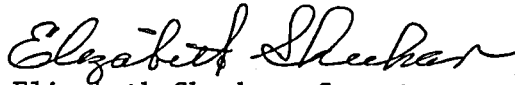
Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor



Edward S. Bilzerian, Assembly Chairman



Elizabeth Sheehan, Secretary