

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

February 11, 1990

The Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts, convened on Sunday, February 11, 1990, in the Church Hall. The Assembly was scheduled to take place on Sunday, February 4, but was postponed to this pre-scheduled "snow date" due to unfavorable weather conditions. The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and chaired by the holdover chairman, Edward S. Bilzerian.

Following the opening prayer by Father Aved, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. Sophie Shamgochian presented the name of Asbed Zakarian for Chairman of the Assembly. Nominations were opened to the floor. Edward S. Bilzerian was nominated by Harry Sogigian. There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Zarvin Kasparian and seconded by James Sarkisian to close the nominations for Chairman of the Assembly. Just prior to the voting, Mr. Bilzerian withdrew his name from the ballot. The secretary cast one vote for Asbed Zakarian to serve as Chairman of the Assembly.

The Nominating Committee offered the name of Mrs. Haig Donabedian 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 Mrs. Haig Donabedian to serve as the Secretary of the Assembly. Betty Sheehan, secretary for the previous year's assembly, was nominated as Assistant to the Secretary, however, she declined the nomination.

Chairman Zakarian presented the Agenda for adoption by the Assembly. After the addition of the category "Old Business" - a motion was made by J. Ludwig Stepanian and seconded by Edward S. Bilzerian to accept the agenda as amended. It was so voted.

The Chairman then called upon Mrs. Sophie Shamgochian once again, who presented the following names as nominees for Parish Council:

Dr. Robert Anusbigian  
Rose Aslanian  
Edward Atamian  
Paul Avakian  
Garabed Hovhanesian  
Marsha Hovenesian  
Gilbert Markarian  
Madieros Mooshagian  
John Sagarian  
Everett Titus

At this time, nominations from the floor were opened. There being no additional nominations, J. Ludwig Stepanian moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Edward Bilzerian. The Assembly accepted the list as presented.

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

Valerie Babaian  
Paul Davis  
Charles Der Kazarian  
Hazel Eljanian  
Haroutune Kasparian  
Mary Manoogian  
Norman Noorjanian  
Ann Pogharian  
Irene Shooshan  
Rose Toromanian

At this time, nominations from the floor were opened. There being no additional nominations, J. Ludwig Stepanian moved to close the nominations. Seconded by Harry Dodakian. The Assembly accepted the list as presented.

Nominees for the Auditing Committee were as follows:

Herbert Alexander  
Bryan Davis  
Richard Dodakian  
Amar Kapur

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no further nominations, John Toromanian made a motion which was seconded by J. Ludwig Stepanian to close the nominations. Motion carried.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch and elections.

The 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 89 were present.

Chairman Zakarian dispensed with the reading of the Minutes of the 1989 Annual Assembly at the request of the Assembly. There being no corrections or additions, the Minutes were accepted as presented.

The Chairman reviewed the reports, page by page asking for corrections and modifications. Comments were as follows:

Pastor's Report:

Page (19): Robert Shamgochian inquired about our Church's involvement in the Ecumenical Council of Churches. Father Aved responded that in addition to the items noted in his report, our involvement with the Ecumenical Council is on various levels. The Ecumenical Council regularly communicates with our Church, with him as a priest, as a pastor, for Christian Education for youth group functions, and concerns regarding the community.

Page (24): Edward S. Bilzerian asked about the position of the newly-hired Social Worker/Youth Director Beth Bilbilian, and what percentage of her time was spent on the youth and elderly. Chairman of the Parish Council Arthur

Surabian responded that the Social Worker/Youth Director reports directly to the pastor. Father Aved explained that her duties varied from week to week, depending on her current project. She was hired on a part-time basis for twenty hours a week, however, she gives many extra hours, following up her projects, on her own time.

Page (25): Anne Hovenesian stated for the record, her appreciation of the wonderful symposium sponsored by the Armenian Language Lab.

A motion was made by Bizer Simonian and seconded by Betty Sheehan to accept the Pastor's Report. Motion Carried.

#### Report of the Parish Council:

Page 31: J. Ludwig Stepanian inquired about the heating system. Arthur Surabian, Chairman of the Parish Council, responded that Yankee Technologies, Inc., was brought in to modify and correct all thermostats, which will enhance the system.

Page 32: Arthur Surabian, regarding the Annual Harvest Bazaar, pointed out that if the current format of a two-day fair is to be continued, and financially successful, many more volunteers are needed.

Page 33: John Toromanian asked why a financial report on the Earthquake Fund was not included in the Annual Report. In response, Arthur Surabian stated that this was an oversight, and offered to ask the Parish Council Treasurer to furnish the Assembly with a complete report. Chairman Zakarian recommended that the report be published in the next issue of the Church Newsletter, "Messenger."

A motion was made by J. Ludwig Stepanian, seconded and carried to accept the Report of the Parish Council.

Reports of the Church Organizations were then reviewed.

Report of the ACYOA Juniors - accepted as presented.

#### Report of the ACYOA Seniors:

There was a question on the expenditures of the organization. Jay Kapur, Chairman of the ACYOA Seniors responded that several functions were not for the purpose of fund-raising, i.e: the Symposium, Collegiate Dinners and Sunday Fellowship.

#### Report of the Armenian School:

On behalf of Yeretzgin Vivian Terzian, Director of the Armenian School, who was not able to attend the Assembly, Chairman Zakarian praised the efforts of our Yeretzgin, and asked the parishioners to support by sending their children and offering programs.

#### Report of the Avak Group

Edward S. Bilzerian questioned why the Avak Group did not submit a Financial

Report as did other Church organizations. Following some discussion, and explanation of why a financial report was never included, Mr. Bilzerian made a motion, seconded by Elda Malesky to include the "year-end cash balance" as part of their annual report, beginning next year. Motion carried.

Report of Babies and Toddlers Program:

Chairman Zakarian stated that the success of the Toddlers Program is evident, creating a special place for these young ones.

Report of the Sunday Church School:

Chairman Zakarian, on behalf of the Assembly, praised Superintendent Tara Stepanian for her dedication and the commitment of all the teachers.

Report of the Cultural Organization:

Correction: Corresponding Secretary of the Organization is Lucy Hovenesian, and Addition: Advisor is Bizer Simonian

Report of the Ekmalian Choir:

It was questioned why the Choir's financial report was not included as part of their annual report. It was stated that the Financial Statement was not submitted in time for publication. Chairman Zakarian appointed Mrs. Rose Aslanian to investigate and report her findings to the Parish Council. Results will be published in the "Messenger".

Report of the Library Committee:

Additional Committee members to be added to the list are: Marilyn Markarian and Frances Elloian.

Report of the Men's Club - accepted as presented.

Report of the Senior Ladies Auxiliary:

Margaret Belles, Secretary of the Senior Ladies asked that the name of Marilyn Markarian, Chairman of the Women's Guild, be included in her report in appreciation of her efforts.

Report of the Women's Guild - accepted as presented.

Report of the Beano Committee:

The Beano Committee and volunteers were praised for their dedication and thanked for the great financial contribution that they have made to our Church over the years.

Chairman Zakarian asked for a motion to accept the reports of the organizations. Motion was made by J. Ludwig Stepanian and seconded by Arthur Elloian. Motion carried to accept the reports of the Church organizations as amended.

## Report of the Auditing Committee:

It was recommended that the report of the Auditing Committee should follow the Financial Reports, on next year's Assembly Agenda.

Chairman Zakarian, being a member of the Auditing Committee, spoke of the difficulties of auditing the books at year-end. He urged the organizations submit their books on a timely basis and he recommended that a better system of auditing the books be developed by the new Auditing Committee and the Parish Council.

J. Ludwig Stepanian made a motion, seconded by Arthur Elloian to accept the Auditing Committee's Report. Motion carried.

## The Financial Reports (pages 53 - 63)

George Krikorian asked about the difference between the Budgeted and Actual Income. A thorough explanation was given by the Parish Council Chairman. Edward S. Bilzerian questioned the accounting principals regarding the Baptismal Font. Chairman Arthur Surabian responded that the funds were being capitalized properly, hence, conforming to generally accepted accounting procedures.

J. Ludwig Stepanian questioned the gross income of the functions. Chairman Surabian, in the absence of the Parish Council Treasurer, informed the Assembly, that approximate numbers were offered on the Church Functions.

Edward S. Bilzerian asked if next year's financial report on the Harvest Bazaar be itemized (i.e., proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets be a separate line item).

## Page 60: Investment Committee

A question was asked on the structure of the Investment Committee. Arthur Surabian explained that the Investment Committee meets with Edward J. Bilzerian, the Church's stockbroker, on a quarterly basis. The Parish Council receives a complete report following every interaction.

J. Ludwig Stepanian suggested that the names of current committee members be included in the report of the Investment Committee.

Edward S. Bilzerian made a motion that equity investments are not to exceed 30% of our total assets. Scott Najarian seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Edward S. Bilzerian explained on Investment Accounts there should be zeroes should replace the dashes (-----) used to indicate a zero amount. (page 60).

It was pointed out that under Proposed Budget (page 63) the title should read Youth Ministry/Social Services instead of Youth Ministry.

Edward S. Bilzerian suggested the "Salaries and other Services" figures be itemized, and that the salary for the Youth Ministry/Social Services Director to be included in this category.

J. Lutwig Stepanian made a motion to accept the 1990 Proposed Budget. Alice Papazian seconded. Motion was carried.

#### New Business

#### Elevator Project

Presentation was made on the proposed Elevator project. Arthur Surabian and Richard Maksian presented a video which explained the various levels of entry and elevator stops. Complete blueprints, prepared by Raymond Hovsepian were discussed in detail. Regarding the funding of the project, it was reported to the Assembly that the recommendation of the Parish Council was take the \$175,000 (the cost of the elevator project) from the funds of the Sarkisian Estate, which is to be received in full during the year 1990.

"The Parish Council recommends that the parish finance the elevator by borrowing from the proceeds of the Harry Sarkisian Estate which has been invested in a Special Dean Witter Investment account. It is proposed that after the withdrawal to pay for the elevator has occurred the remaining proceeds from the estate should be prudently invested at the best interest rate available. Based on the current interest rates of 7.9 - 8.0% it will take 48 months for the account to be totally replenished."

The Parish Council also recommended that the structure be a memorial to Harry Sarkisian. Kay Garabedian, Executor of the Sarkisian Estate, praised the gesture. Bizer Simonian made a motion to execute the project as recommended by the Parish Council, Ann Mosessian seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Ann Mosessian made a motion to dedicate the structure as a memorial to the late Harry Sarkisian, seconded by Vahe Jardarian, motion carried.

Chairman Asbed Zakarian asked the Assembly to give the Parish Council the authority to spend up to an additional \$25,000 to complete the project, in the instance of an unanticipated cost overrun. Assembly approved.

#### Julio Iglesias Concert:

Parish Council Chairman Arthur Surabian informed the Assembly, as part of the Parish's ongoing Earthquake Fund Drive, Julio Iglesias has been contracted to perform on Wednesday, May 30, 1990, at the Worcester Centrum. He stressed the need of the total support of the parishioners to ensure the success of this effort.

At this point, Sophie Shamgochian was reintroduced. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, she thanked the group of ladies who prepared the luncheon. She then proceeded to report the election results.

#### Parish Council:

Dr. Robert Anusbigian	80
Rose Aslanian	96
Edward Atamian	97
Paul Avakian	89
Garabed Hovhanesian	90
Gilbert Markarian	68

She then announced that there was a tie for the first alternate: being Marsha Hovenesian and John Sagarian. A long discussion ensued regarding the procedure to break the tie, whether the pastor should cast the deciding vote or whether another secret ballot needed to be taken. Chairman Zakarian made a ruling, based upon Roberts Rules of Order, that another secret ballot was to take place. Scott Najarian then challenged the Chair saying that the Pastor should cast the deciding vote. Chairman Zakarian assured the Assembly that the Rules stated that if the President (in this case the Pastor) chooses not to break to be the tie-breaker, a vote by the members present at that moment would be in order.

The voting took place immediately, the result was that Marsha Hovenesian became the First alternate.

Nominating Committee:

Valerie Babaian	72
Hazel Eljanian	81
Irene Shooshan	74
Rose Toromanian	73
Alternate: Ann Pogharian	60

Auditing Committee:

Herbert Alexander	74
Richard Dodakian	77
Alternate: Bryan Davis	69

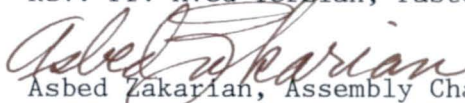
There being no further business before the Assembly, Chairman Zakarian asked for a motion to adjourn. Marilyn Markarian made a motion to adjourn the Assembly, motion was seconded and carried to adjourn.

Father Aved then thanked Asbed Zakarian, the Chairman, and Mrs. Haig Donabedian, Secretary of the Assembly. On behalf of all our parishioners, he then thanked the newly-elected and out-going members of the Parish Council. He then closed the meeting with a prayer at 4:55 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor



Asbed Zakarian, Assembly Chairman



Mrs. Haig Donabedian, Secretary