

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
Armenian Church of Our Saviour
Worcester, Massachusetts
February 23, 1992

The Armenian Church of Our Saviour Annual Assembly convened on Sunday, February 23, 1992 in the Cultural Center at 11:30 a.m. following church services, presided by Reverend Father Aved Terzian. The meeting was called to order by Lutwig Stepanian, Chairman of the 1991 Assembly. An opening prayer was offered by Der Aved. A quorum call counted 125 members.

The Chair then invited Seth Bilazarian, Nominating Committee Chairman, to submit names of candidates for ensuing chairman and secretary. Names of Lutwig Stepanian for Chairman and Karen King for Secretary were submitted as candidates. There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and one vote was cast by Secretary Bartevo Der Bagdasarian to complete the election.

The newly elected officers took their seats with the President, Pastor Terzian and with Deacon Norman Odabashian, Assistant to the Pastor, also at the head table.

A ballot, prepared by the Nominating Committee, was presented to the members by Chairman Bilazarian.

Parish Council:

Paul Avakian
Alma Der Kazarian
Gregory Donoian
Karnig Dugarian
John Fashjian
Michael Gulbankian
Jay Kapur
Gilbert Markarian
Louis Mikitarian
Herman Purutyan
Archie Torosian

Nominating Committee:

Mary Atamian
Jenny Barsamian
Margaret Boosahda
Rose Gulanian
Marsha Hovenesian
Elizabeth Markarian
Madieros Mooshagian
Mary Shamoian
Charles Sharigian
Helen Torigian

Auditing Committee:

Richard Dodakian
Richard Maksian
Mark Mikitarian
Gary Pogharian
Rose Simonian

Endowment Committee

Herb Alexander
George Migridichian

At this time, nominations from the floor were opened. There being no additional nominations, Chairman Stepanian moved to close the nominations, which was duly seconded, voted upon, and passed.

Before the Chair recessed the meeting for voting, it was offered to the Assembly to extend voting time, due to the meeting beginning 15 minutes late. It was determined that a one hour window would be given to voting, beginning at 11:50 a.m. and ending at 12:50 p.m. Der Aved sealed the ballot box, and the Chair recessed the meeting at 11:50 a.m. for elections and lunch.

The Assembly Meeting resume after voting terminated at 12:50 p.m. The Chair thanked the Luncheon Committee, headed by Mrs. Ann Pogharian, for their efforts. A tally established that 118 members of the Parish were in attendance.

At this time, upon a motion duly made and seconded the Agenda for this Assembly, prepared by the Parish Council, was adopted unanimously. The agenda is made a part of these minutes.

The Chair undertook to review "The Annual Reports 1991" in the order of their appearance therein giving time for comments, corrections, additions, etc. The list is as follows:

Minutes Annual Parish Assembly, Pages 1-9.

Page 7: Scott Najarian, in referring to the paragraph discussing the pro and con discussion on the progress of the Unity Committee, pointed out that when a second vote is requested due to a question of a narrow margin, the number of votes should be counted and noted in the minutes. The Chair so noted this remark.

Page 8 Correction: Karen King noted that the name of *Ann Pogharian* was left out of the 1991 minutes as an elected member of the Nominating Committee. The Chair so noted this missing name.

Scott Najarian noted that the number of dues paying members did not appear any where in the 1991 report. He asked that this information be included with future reports. Gilbert Markarian explained that since some 1991 dues were received after December 31, 1991, and accepted up to the end of voting on the Assembly Day, this information could not be accurate enough to include in the Annual Reports. Scott Najarian then asked for the total number of dues-paying members as of December 31 of any given year.

Harry Sahagian made a motion to accept the minutes of the 1991 Annual Assembly, which was seconded by Elizabeth Markarian. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Diocesan Delegates' Report, Pages 10-12

Page 10: Chairman Stepanian noted that the location of the 1991 Diocesan Convention was missing from the report. It took place at St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ.

Page 11: Herman Purutyan asked about the proposals mentioned in *Paragraph B and C*, and what activity had taken place since these proposals were passed at the convention. Der Aved explained that the Diocesan Council sets the agenda, and that the Diocese has not addressed as of yet these issues, and since parishes cannot take action on their own, the parishes must wait for directives from New York.

Page 12: Zaven Kasparian commented on the paragraph that begins *The Saturday session*, asking what the etc. means at the end of the third to the last sentence. He felt that should be removed. He said that what is stated in this paragraph is not correct, and the correct version should be read from Page 20 of the Diocesan Report, included as follows:

Discussion by the delegates of the Assembly included questions as to why the delay of translating of the 1990 Joint Diocesan-Prelacy Bylaws into Armenian by the Prelacy delegates, the attendance record of delegates from the Prelacy. After further exploration, the Diocesan Assembly moved, seconded and adopted that the final paragraph - with the word we that appears on line 8 is changed to the Diocesan Unity Committee and the last we in the same line be changed to Diocesan Unity Committee.

Zaven said he would write a paragraph to substitute for what appeared in the Annual Reports, that will be included in these Minutes as follows:

The Diocesan Assembly moved, seconded and adopted the final paragraph of the Unity Committee report stating that the "Diocesan Unity Committee will not schedule any further meeting unless the Diocesan Unity/By-Laws Committee can be assured that the Prelacy Unity/By-Laws Committee is prepared and willing to work toward a final By-Laws for a re-united Diocese.

A motion was made by Elda Malesky to accept the Diocesan Delegate's Report, which was seconded by Mary Atamian. The motion was voted upon and passed.

Pastor's Report, Pages 13 - 32

Page 15 Corrections: Very Rev. Oshagan should read Very Rev. Father Oshagan Gulgolian. Rev. Fr. Yeprem Davidian should read Rev. Fr. Yeprem Kelegian.

Page 17 Corrections: Strike Sarkis Balian and Heather Enterline from *Engagements* and add Lisa Najarian and Steven Sarkisian.

Page 22 Correction: Under the title *Altar Servers*, the first paragraph, strike out sub-deacon and insert acolyte.

Page 26 Correction: Hannah *Kalaydjian* should be *Kalajian*.

Page 27 Corrections: Elda Malesky mentioned that Louise Toromanian chaired the Senior Ladies Martyrs' Day Madagh Fellowship.

Louis Mikitarian asked why the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors and Seniors were listed under *Educational Programs* in the Pastor's Report, instead of under *Church Organizations*. Der Aved replied that they should be listed under *Church Organizations*.

Page 30 Corrections: Alma Der Kazarian noted that the last paragraph it should state the 50th Anniversary of the Daughters of Vartan.

Chairman Stepanian asked that the amount collected at the Perry Como concert be changed from \$65,000 to \$75,889.26. At this time there was applause for Edward Atamian and Arthur Surabian for their efforts and a job well done.

Nancy Hohvanesian questioned the \$650,000 amount raised for the Earthquake Fund. Gilbert Markarian responded by saying the sum raised was considerable, but he didn't know exact numbers at that time. Arthur Surabian filled in this information by reporting that a total of \$664,623 has been raised up to this time.

Alice Papazian moved that the Pastor's Report be accepted. This motion was seconded by Harry Sahagian. It was voted upon, and so passed.

Zaven Kasparian asked at this time that the Pastor's Report should be accepted with the recognition of the efforts of our Pastor, Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian and Rev. Deacon Norman Odabashian be added to the minutes.

Parish Council Report - Pages 33 - 36

Page 33 Comments: Scott Najarian commented that out of all the Armenian Churches he has visited in this country and abroad, the Worcester parish is one of the best-kept facilities he has seen, and that this should be noted.

Page 34 Corrections: Fourth paragraph, Gilbert Markarian noted that four youths were sponsored for one week at St. Vartan's Camp and one youth was sponsored at St. Nersess. He also asked that the work *expenses* be insert after the second sentence, *Part of these....*

Page 35 Comments: Robert Shamgochian asked if anything has been done about researching "Housing for the Elderly." Edward Atamian responded that since the Centennial Celebration took so much time, effort and attention this past year, this issue has not been addressed. He said it will be addressed by the 1992 Parish Council.

Page 36 Correction: Marilyn Larkin asked that the name of Dorothy Trask be inserted before Martha Villani's name where it listed employees of the church.

Agnes Markarian made a motion that the Parish Council report be accepted, which was seconded by Betty Markarian. This was voted upon and passed.

ACYOA Juniors' Report - Page 37

Gilbert Markarian asked that it be noted that the Donation to Church of \$300.00 is not noted in the Treasurer's report because it was received in 1992 and not in 1991. He also mentioned that was the same for the Senior Ladies Auxiliary's and A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors' donation.

Zaven Kasparian mentioned at this time that at last year's assembly it was requested that organizations include an itemization of expenses with their reports. This has not be done.

Steven Migridichian asked who was the parental liaison for the ACYOA Junior, as it was not specifically mentioned in their report. Der Hayr responded by saying that Malcolm and Rose Asadoorian were mentioned in his report, and they were given recognition at that time.

Elizabeth Markarian asked that a motion to accept the Juniors' Report be made, and this was seconded by Pauline Agazarian. So voted and passed.

ACYOA Seniors' Report - Page 38

Agnes Markarian moved to accept this report, seconded by Mrs. Satenig Donabedian. So voted and passed.

Avaks Report - Page 39

Pauline Agazarian moved to accept this report, seconded by Agnes Sahagian, voted and so passed.

Babies' and Toddlers' Program Report - Page 40

Appreciation was given to Yeretzgin Vivian for a job well done.

Everett Titus made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Arek Thompson. So voted and passed.

Centennial Committee Report - Page 41

Mrs. Satenig Donabedian made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Elizabeth Sheehan. So voted and passed.

Cultural Organization Report - Page 43

Herman Purutyan made a motion to accept this page, seconded by Harry Sahagian. So voted and passed.

Ekmalian Choir Report - Page 44

Vahe Jardarian asked if the total number of choir members sent to the annual choir convention had changed. Edward Atamian said that the Parish Council had approved two members to attend, but only one, Marilyn Larkin, actually attended. Vahe said he was asked to go, but that no one kept him informed. Gary Hohvanesian said that three choir members were asked to attend, only one responded positively. Edward Atamian said it was not the intention of the Parish Council to limit the number of choir members attending, and Vahe was asked who was suppose to keep him informed. Vahe responded that it was the choir director.

Paul Andonian made a motion to accept this page, seconded by Elizabeth Sheehan. So voted and passed.

Library Committee Report - Page 45

Agnes Sahagian made a motion to accept this page, seconded by Elizabeth Sheehan. So voted and passed.

Memorial Endowment Committee Annual Report - Page 46

Marilyn Larkin made a motion to accept this page, seconded by Anne Hovenesian. So voted and passed.

Men's Club Report - Page 47

Harry Sahagian made a motion to accept this page, seconded by Alice Sahagian. So voted and passed.

Senior Ladies Auxiliary Annual Report - Page 48

It was noted that in the list of the Executive Board members, Berjouhi Zakarian should be Berjoohi Zakarian and Ann Zakaian should be Ann Zakarian.

Suney Kachadoorian noted that the Men's Club should, like the Senior Ladies Auxiliary and other organizations, post their meeting times in their reports.

Anne Hovenesian asked that those who submit reports for the Annual Report be allowed to proofread their reports before printing.

Sarah Bulbulian asked that the elderly be given consideration when church events were planned. Their transportation needs should be kept in mind during the planning of church events.

Harry Sahagian made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Mrs. Satenig Donabedian. So voted and passed.

Sunday Church School Report - Page 49

Paul Andonian asked for the total number of registered children in Sunday School. Superintendent Tara Stepanian said over 100 children enrolled since November, 1991, and that attendance on any given Sunday is at 65%-70%. Attendance, she noted, is seasonably influenced. She also said that attendance on this day was at 60%.

Herman Purutyan made a motion to accept this report, seconded by John Sagarian. So voted and passed.

Women's Guild Annual Report - Pages 50 - 51

Page 50 Corrections: Marilyn *Larkin*, as listed in the Executive Body as Advisor should be Marilyn *Markarian*. Marilyn Larkin noted that only she was elected to the Nominating Committee. The Women's Guild *Control* Council should be *Central* Council.

Harry Sahagian made a motion to accept this report, seconded by Arek Thompson. So voted and passed.

Beano Report - Page 52

Mark Mikitarian asked why the Beano report was at the end of the reports, not in alphabetical order. Der Aved explained that since Beano was not an official church organization that it did not belong with the other reports.

Elizabeth Markarian moved to accept this report, seconded by Elda Malesky. So voted and passed.

Zaven Kasparian asked why an itemization of expenses was not completed on each report. Harry Sahagian commented that to list each and every expense would make the Annual Reports too long and increase cost of printing.

Herman Purutyan then made a motion to limit listed expenses to those equalling \$500 or more. Marilyn Markarian asked that the motion be changed to include expenses over \$100. Less than \$100 should be included in the category of *Other Expenses*.

Zaven Kasparian said this is redundant, and was voted upon last year. The Parish Council should have monitored this. Herman Purutyan said that last year's motion was passed, but no minimum limits were established in reporting expenses. Rose Aslanian asked for clarification: should it be \$100 per expense, or all expenses over \$100?

Louis Mikitarian asked the question, Should we amend last year's motion, or vote on Herman Purutyan's motion?

It was voted upon: 38 in favor, 13 opposed. Motion carried.

Robert Shamgochian asked if he could discuss Old Business at this time. Chairman Stepanian asked if it related to either Page 52 or Page 53. Robert replied it was Old Business, and he agreed to hold until Item 11A of the Agenda was in process.

Comparative Statement of Income - Page 53

Gilbert Markarian noted that the footnote on the bottom of this page should read *Patriarchate* and not *Patriarch*.

Herman Purutyan asked for information on how the money would be allocated for Jerusalem. Gilbert Markarian responded that Worcester is waiting to hear from the Patriarch as to what the Patriarchate's needs are, and then the money will be disbursed. Der Aved said he is waiting for a fax from Jerusalem with that information.

Louis Mikitarian asked who decided to send a donation to the Patriarchate. Gilbert Markarian said this is reflected in the report on page 42. The Parish Council accepted the Centennial Committee's recommendation in this matter. Gilbert explained that much money has already been spent improving the church for the Centennial celebration, including the Khatchkar and the lawn.

Zaven Kasparian commented that the wide attendance of this function was due to the fact that the Patriarch attended. This is what brought people from all over the world and all over this country. Jerusalem needs our help, and we should be willing to help out.

Paul Andonian wished to know why the donor of the \$100,000 to Jerusalem was not mentioned in the Annual Report. Der Aved replied that the donor wished to remain anonymous, even though the donor's name has become public knowledge. Der Aved said that this was not a donation to our Parish, but a personal donation, and the donor's wish for privacy should be respected.

Harry Sogigian expressed his concern that the Parish was not more involved in making the decision to send the \$10,000 to Jerusalem. He is not opposed to the idea, just that the Parish was not consulted. Chairman Stepanian replied that a proposal had been submitted to the Parish Council that this money be donated, and the Parish Council, a duly elected body representing the Parish, voted to accept this proposal.

Edward Atamian asked that the Assembly refer to page 35 of the 1991 Annual Reports.

Zaven Kasparian mentioned that the Centennial Committee has not committed any money as of this date. In accordance with authorization from the Parish Council, this proposal has been made part of this Report, which the assembly here today voted to accept. Chairman Stepanian commented that if the assembly had concerns about this proposal, it should have been mentioned at the time of the Centennial Committee Report discussion.

Scott Najarian, point of order. The Assembly accepted the report, not the decision.

Gilbert Markarian said that this proposal was made in 1992, and should not be discussed with the 1991 Annual Reports. Edward Atamian reported that this will be reported on in 1992.

Marsha Hovenesian asked that statements for dues be sent out in October.

Gilbert Markarian remarked that requests were sent out in early December, showing total payment made to church as of that date. There are two systems for paying dues: envelopes and annual payment. Gilbert asked for the parish's cooperation in paying yearly dues within the present year.

Herman Purutyan asked why there was no income under the Earthquake Fund. Gilbert Markarian said the money is reported elsewhere. Der Hayr commented that the money is not income for the church, only held in trust. Herman asked about the Children's Fund for 1990, not allocated as income. Arthur Surabian remarked that this is non-operating income. It shows as a transfer into the church's fund, but also shows as a liability. He said this is done to leave a "paper trail."

Herman Purutyan asked why there were no 1991 Etchmiadzin Looma or St. Nersess Seminary Fund disbursements. Gilbert Markarian responded that the Diocese bills for Etchmiadzin Looma, and forgot to bill the church in 1991. We will be double billed in 1992. Gilbert also explained that there were some expenses for the Martyr's Day program.

Gilbert Markarian remarked that 1991 included 53 weeks of pay for office staff. Because of the variation of days in a calendar year, some years include more than 52 weeks of pay. He remarked further that 1992 will include 51 weeks of pay.

Zaven Kasparian commented on the pattern of paying dues, and that late pledges were accepted after the first of the year. This has been a pattern for many years. The Treasurer this year handled a larger than expect sum of late pledges this year.

Nancy Hovhanesian asked why was money paid to an outside accounting firm (Page 54). Gilbert explained that this was for Safeguard, a company who handles our payroll.

Herman Purutyan asked why 1990 Outside Accounting expenses were nearly half that needed in 1991. Gilbert Markarian said that in 1990 these accounting procedures were completed in house, and now was being completed by an outside company.

Paul Andonian asked about the number of custodians employed by the church. Gilbert said we have one full time and one part time custodian. We were with only one custodian for many months.

Louis Mikitarian asked if the Pledges Collected (as listed on page 53) in 1991 included those promised in 1990. Gilbert Markarian said yes.

Pauline Agazarian asked why the Choir Director's pay and the soloist pay were listed separately, and not lumped together. Gilbert said that the soloist was not always the Choir Director, and these categories must be kept separate.

Nancy Hohvanesian asked about the method of reporting the Actual Income on page 54. Arthur Surabian explained the difference between Total Operating Income and Total Income Received, and that the format shows actual income received versus budgeted income, but is not designed to be an income statement. It only shows income and expenditures.

Joan Handleman asked if we are in a deficit, and both Edward Atamian and Gilbert Markarian responded yes, the amount being \$90,000.

Vahe Jardarian asked what were Memorial Biographies, and it was explained that those were published in the Vestibule of the church.

Harry Sahagian asked where did the money for Capital Expenditures listed in *Schedule F* come from? Asbed Zakarian commented that the majority of the money was transferred from the Equity Account holding the residue of the Cultural Center Building Fund. He also commented that there is a \$90,000 deficit.

Gilbert Markarian remarked that \$50,000 came from interest which doesn't show as income. Also, \$30,000 of interest from the H. Sarkisian fund has not been transferred, as we need the money.

Joan Handleman asked how long could we go on like this? Asbed Zakarian mentioned that in nine years the money would be depleted.

Gary Hohvanesian remarked that Nona Trabizonian should be Nina Trabizonian.

Edward Atamian remarked that we have many planned events, such as the Picnic, Bazaar, etc., but we did not take in enough money. He continued to say the Parish Council cannot do everything, and there is a need for greater volunteer effort from the parish.

Ann Sharigian stated that she felt the church should cut down on expenses.

Gladys Bagdasarian commented that as she looked back on the history of our parish, it took hard work to bring us to where we are today. Perhaps this is what is needed now to come up with a solution for the church's financial problems.

On page 59, Gilbert Markarian asked that on Margaret Der Merjian Memorial Fund Pending that this be deleted this year.

Paul Andonian asked that the suggestions by the Parish Council to solve the \$90,000 deficit be presented at this time. He remarked that monies should not be taken out of reserves to finance this problem.

Gilbert Markarian responded to this by saying \$50,000 was taken from interest on restricted fund and that this was called for in the 1991 budget. In fact, last year's budget called for \$55,000 to be taken from interest gained from restricted funds, but the church withheld only \$50,000. Also, \$30,000 from the H. Sarkisian money stayed in the treasury. The church has, at the present time, a balance of \$45,000 left in the checkbook. It was the intent of the Parish Council to replace the \$30,000 to the Harry Sarkisian account.

Nancy Hovhanesian asked if there was a problem with people paying their dues by the end of the calendar year. Gilbert reported yes, it was a greater problem this year than in previous years.

It was asked what the rate of return was on the invested monies, and Arthur Surabian responded it was at about 8.235%.

Marjorie Sohigian remarked that the spelling of Margaret Der Merjian's name was incorrect, but Gilbert Markarian said that it was spelled this way on correspondence received from the family.

Agnes Sahagian asked how monies listed in *Schedule B (Gifts)* on Page 56 are expended. Der Aved responded that people donated gifts to the church, and some of these gifts were earmarked for certain subjects. If they are categorized as unrestricted gifts, the monies go towards the operating expenses of the church.

Gladys Bagdasarian asked how the names of the donors of sanctuary windows are identified. Gilbert Markarian responded that there is a list of donors in the Pangal, on a plaque, where individual donors are listed by name. The church is presently looking for a donor(s) to underwrite the cost (approximately \$60,000) of all the dome windows. This was acknowledged to be quite an expense, and there are color and architectural issues to be worked out.

At this point Zaven Kasparian made a motion to accept the financial reports of the Auditing Committee up to and including page 62. This motion was seconded by Gladys Nordigian. This was voted upon and passed.

Herman Purutyan asked how the money in the Children's Earthquake Fund was to be disbursed. Gilbert Markarian said there are no present plans for that money at this time.

Zaven Kasparian asked that the inconsistency in naming Beano as Bingo be corrected. It should be Beano.

Edward Atamian invited comments on the deficit budget at this time. He remarked that the Pledges collected were insufficient because of uncollected dues.

Joan Handleman asked what the weekly dues obligations were in this parish.

Zaven Kasparian mentioned that the Parish Council published with the proposed budget a statement that it would present several proposals to the congregation to solve the budget deficit. Did the Parish Council consider a Stewardship program? He commented that the parish is faced with debt every year. Has any consideration been given to this idea? Stewardship has not been addressed in this parish for over 10 years. He remarked that many parishes have such a program in place.

Mary Atamian asked for a definition of a Stewardship Program. Zaven explained that it is an organized effort by a team of parish members to make contact with all who are members to bring to them the idea of tithing in a proper amount in accordance with the member's ability to pay.

Harry Sogigian said that a Stewardship Program was started in 1953, in order to pay off the church's mortgage. He described the envelope system that was used, and that the committee also followed up on dues that were unpaid.

Paul Andonian asked about delinquent payers at this time. Der Aved replied that we should look at the budget to see where the money comes in from. We tend to generate monies from functions, not from parishioners. Some contribute the \$2.00 per week amount and some contribute more. We have not asked individuals to give more. We need an appeals committee to ask those who can contribute more to consider doing so. It is difficult to determine who is delinquent. We need to establish a Stewardship Program to see how people are pledging. A Stewardship Program needs to be established in order to increase monies received by the church.

Arthur Yagjian asked why there was no income reported from Bequests in the proposed budget. Gilbert Markarian remarked that bequests were not operating income and should not be included at this point. Der Aved explained that gifts to the church are just that, gifts. The church cannot know in advance who is to die and leave money to the church. It is a chance event.

Charlotte Calfaian asked about Pledges Collected Current Year, and the blank line that followed it.

George Migridichian asked about the increase in Custodian pay from last's year actual amount paid. He said there is a \$4,805.57 difference. Gilbert Markarian remarked that the church has one full time and one part time custodian, but in 1991, we had only one custodian for many months. Now that there are two, the projected amount to be paid is more than last year's actual.

Herman Purutyan remarked that the 1991 Rug Sale only generated \$4,000 income. He asked if it was prudent to budget such a high amount. Edward Atamian answered that the 1991 Rug Sale was hampered by poor advertising and a poor economy. The church intends to change the rug supply, prices and maybe even distributor to increase sales. Herman asked if we should consider not holding a Rug Sale this year due to the poor economy. Edward responded that the Rug Sale requires minimal effort and should be held this year. To stop this annual event now would not be in the church's best interest.

Paul Andonian asked what the full-time custodian is paid for 40 hours per week. Gilbert Markarian replied that he is paid \$20,000 a year, with overtime.

Zaven Kasparian asked why is there money set aside for the elevator? Edward Atamian responded that this money pays for the service contract that maintains the elevator.

Zaven remarked that \$27,000 has been invested in the church grounds, as the result of the Centennial Celebration. He expressed concern that the grounds should be professionally maintained to protect this investment.

Arthur Surabian remarked that it is good to look closely at the 1992 budget. The Rug Sale for this year will be run differently from 1991. One point that he felt was unnecessary was the hiring of WPI students to flip rugs. He felt that parishioners could volunteer to perform that service for their church and this would help cut costs.

Charles Sharigian commented that the church should have a membership drive to bring in dues-paying members.

Laura Purutyan suggested that new activities be developed to spark interest in those parishioners who might not be active at the present time.

At this time the Parish Council proposed two methods of generating the \$90,000 to delete the deficit from 1991.

First Option: Gilbert Markarian proposed that interest money from the Harry Sarkisian estate, valued at \$35,000 be transferred to the operating budget. He pointed out that it was the direction of the 1990 Parish Assembly that requested the money in this account be invested prudently to replenish money withdrawn for the elevator project.

Second Option: Arthur Surabian and Edward Atamian steered the Perry Como Concert for the Earthquake Fund. They have volunteered to do this for the benefit of our church. If this proposal is passed, then there would be the need for about \$35,000 in seed money to plan the concert.

A lengthy discussion ensued from these proposals.

Zaven Kasparian remarked that he is against the first proposal, because experience tells him that it is not profitable to take money from restricted accounts. He is in favor of a concert and a Stewardship program. He felt the church has depended upon Beano too long and too heavily. Now that income from Beano is falling, income to the church has dropped dramatically. The parish should look towards itself and tithe accordingly to make up the difference.

Herman Purutyan commented that this decision should not be made at this assembly, and that the parish would need more time to come up with a solution. He agrees with Zaven and is against the first proposal. He does not want a concert promoted, as it might send the wrong message to the community. He is for Stewardship and a Membership drive.

Arthur Surabian offered an explanation to the assembly regarding the money in the Sarkisian estate, and made the distinction between a bequest and an endowment fund. He said that the proposal Gilbert mentioned would not include taking money from the principal, but the interest only. When the bequest was made, the total amount was \$628,000 with no restrictions. The assembly voted to take up to \$200,000 to build the elevator. There was \$428,000 left in the account. It was determined that it would take four years to replenish this money, according to Edward Bilzerian, our investment broker. Had the parish not taken the action to replenish money to this account, interest from this account would normally go towards income.

Gilbert Markarian remarked that all monies received from bequests, unless otherwise specified, would go towards the operating income of the church.

Zaven Kasparian commented that the financial position of the parish needed to be addressed, with an eye towards the long-term needs of the church, in light of the shortfall of 1991.

Der Aved remarked that if the long-term needs of the church have been neglected now for 10 years, it will take more than one year to rebuild the church's financial standing. Many charities today are in the same position. Tithing might not be able to complete the task alone. It takes time to start up a Stewardship program. Many people who take advantage of the church's programs do not actively contribute money. Taking money in through a Stewardship program will not be easy. We do need to find more active members. But we need to face our immediate problem, as the deficit does exist now and needs to be solved now.

Der Aved continued to say that the Parish Council has to initiate fund raising as a means to balance the budget. A concert may or may not generate the kind of money needed to balance the budget. Parishioners may or may not come through during a Stewardship program, and it may take four or five years to reap the benefits of such a program.

Chairman Stepanian moved to make a motion to present to the Assembly the different proposals that were made to balance the 1991 deficit budget.

Proposal Number 1 Permit the Parish Council to use interest monies from the Harry Sarkisian fund to close deficit.

Proposal Number 2 Begin a Stewardship Program.

Proposal Number 3 Plan a concert to raise money.

Proposal Number 4 Plan a Stewardship Program and plan a concert. Permit the Parish Council to form a committee to look into Stewardship.

Louis Mikitarian moved that a certain percentage of the deficit be taken from the Sarkisian Fund account interest.

Arthur Surabian reminded the Assembly that the only tangible money available is the interest from the Sarkisian account. Stewardship is the long-term answer, not the short-term answer. He asked that the assembly consider allocating \$35,000 to the deficit and if there is a surplus of money over the next year, the money can be used to replenish the Sarkisian account.

Louis Mikitarian made a motion to decrease the deficit amount by approximately 20% by using interest money generated from the Harry Sarkisian fund, about \$17,000. He moved that the balance of the deficit should be eliminated by raising the needed money by planning a special event. He also included in this motion that seed money be set aside to plan this special event. This motion was seconded by Harry Sahagian.

Discussion:

Paul Andonian noted he is against restricting the amount of interest money withdrawn from the Sarkisian estate to only 20% of the deficit amount, but to make 100% of the interest generated from this account available. Harry Sahagian remarked that while the Perry Como concert was successful and this concert made money, there is the potential to lose money.

The Chair then moved the motion to vote, and the motion was carried. Those in favor, 38; those opposed, 32.

Chair called for approval of revised budget. Harry Sahagian made this motion, and Mrs. Elizabeth Markarian seconded the motion.

Gilbert Markarian made a motion to permit the Parish Council to draw seed money to plan the special event. Motion was voted upon and passed.

Zaven Kasparian asked about the Auditors' Report on Page 64. He asked if the Auditing Committee reviewed the reports turned in for 1991. Gilbert Markarian replied that all the books of all the church's organizations were reviewed by the Auditing Committee.

Elizabeth Markarian asked whether or not Perry Como was paid for his performance. Arthur Surabian answered Perry Como was paid a total of \$52,500.

Bizer Simonian asked the assembly to thank Edward Atamian and Arthur Surabian for their work on the Como concert.

Old Business

Robert Shamgochian asked about the taping of the Divine Liturgy and if tapes were available for sale. Der Aved responded that there were some problems with the taping equipment, and as of yet, nothing has been completed with that project.

Charles Der Kazarian asked about the status of the Centennial weekend video tape. Der Aved responded that we have a tape of Saturday's events including the concert, and Sunday's Banquet, representing six hours of viewing time. We had close-circuit TV and the Divine Liturgy was taped from only from one camera which faced the altar. Again, there were some problems with the equipment, and so far there are no tapes for sale from this weekend.

Vahe Jardarian asked about the proposed ramp to the elevator. Der Aved replied that the project to finish the wheelchair ramp into the church would mean the removal of pews and create esthetic problems. It would also require about \$4,000 to \$5,000 in expenses. Wheelchair users are presently being helped on Sunday mornings by Parish Council members, who watch the back entrance over a monitoring system.

New Business

Scott Najarian moved that the Parish Council be allowed to donate \$10,000 to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This was seconded by Herman Purutyan.

Discussion on this motion: Arthur Yagjian asked that a flat \$10,000 be sent. Scott Najarian replied that putting a cap on the amount would be agreeable. Arthur Surabian commented that this motion is out of order, and that the Parish Council has already approved of the Centennial Committee's recommendation that the money be donated. Marsha Hovenesian opposed this motion since the parish is faced with a deficit.

The Chair moved the motion, which was voted upon and passed.

Zaven Kasparian requested that the Parish Council, in the future, report on the contributions made to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund in the name of the Church of Our Saviour. He has never seen this acknowledged any where. The Parish Council should acknowledge the money in this account.

A proposal was made by Zaven Kasparian to advise the Parish Council to setup a sub-committees to address the problems of the parish, and make them standing sub-committees of the Parish Council.

Asbed Zakarian said that this team would be of great benefit to the parish. He added it is very important to have financial professionals sit on the Auditing Committee.

Herman Purutyan moved to place the Armenian Flag in the church hall and Cultural Center. Louis Mikitarian seconded this motion. Lengthy discussion started from this motion. Problems of legality of this move were raised.

Der Aved expressed his feelings on this motion to the Assembly. He said that the flag has been a symbol of political issues and has caused bad feelings. The parish has received a directive from the Primate and Diocesan Council in 1990 on usage of the Armenian flag, making its display in churches optional. Displaying the flag of Armenia in Armenia has different meaning than displaying it here in this country, because it is a symbol of struggle and independence. In church, Der Aved said, the most important symbol is the Cross. We should approach this issue wisely, and try to take the hurt out of the Armenian flag. Der Aved felt it would not be appropriate to display the flag at church at this time, knowing it might cause hurt among some parishioners.

Louis Mikitarian said that if no political affiliations were to be displayed at church, then why is the American flag displayed? Many comments from the congregation were expressed as to the difference between displaying the American flag and the Armenian flag.

The question was asked if Armenian flags were displayed in Armenian churches in Armenia. Der Aved stated that only a few parishes in this Diocese displayed the Armenian flag. Deacon Norman claimed that they do not display the flag in Armenian Churches in Armenian. Scott Najarian stated he had seen the flag displayed widely at Etchmiadzin during the Blessing of the Holy Muron.

Herman Purutyán responded to all this discussion by saying people should be educated regarding the flag. People should be free to criticize whether or not they want the flag displayed, but the flag does mean something to Armenians in a Nationalistic and Christian manner. He does not want the flag in the sanctuary, but in non-religious areas of the church. He asked the parish assembly to consider his motion.

At this time, the Chair moved on this motion, which was overwhelmingly opposed and the motion defeated.

Agnes and Stephen Sahagian volunteered to donate a suitable step to be used by Sunday School children to facilitate the taking of Communion.

Chairman Stepanian invited Chairman Seth Bilazarian to declare the results of the Parish Assembly elections. Chairman Bilazarian thanked all the candidates and volunteers who made this Assembly possible. A total of 183 votes were cast. He then read the names of the newly-elected 1992 Parish Council, Nominating Committee, Auditing Committee, and Endowment Committee members:

Parish Council:	Paul Avakian Michael Gulbankian Jay Kapur Gilbert Markarian Louis Mikitarian Herman Purutyán Alma Der Kazarian, Alternate.
Nominating Committee:	Mary Atamian Jenny Barsamian Rose Gulanian Charles Sharigian Helen Torigian Mary Shamoian, Alternate.
Auditing Committee:	Mark Mikitarian Gary Pogharian Richard Dodakian, alternate.
Endowment Committee	George Migridichian

The Chair thanked the Nominating Committee for their meritorious efforts.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked the participants and asked for a motion for adjournment. It was so moved and seconded. Voted to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.

Benediction


Der Aved thanked Chairman Lutwig Stepanian and Secretary Karen King for ably conducting the Assembly, and also extended thanks to all outgoing and newly elected members of the Parish Council.

The Lord's Prayer was offered in unison and with Father Aved's blessing the members departed.

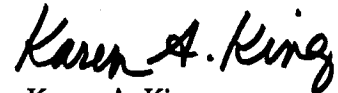
Respectfully submitted,



Reverend Father Aved Terzian
Pastor and President



Lutwig J. Stepanian
Assembly Chairman



Karen A. King
Assembly Secretary