

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

The fifth Annual Parish Assembly took place February 12, 1978 at 101 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Invocation was given by Father Karekin Kasparian.

Apkar Omartian, Chairman of the Parish Council, called the meeting to order since Menas Daderian, Parish Assembly Chairman for 1977, was not present. By unanimous vote Ara Ishkanian was elected Parish Assembly Chairman for 1978 and Grace Cassidy was elected Parish Assembly Secretary.

A slate of nominees for Parish Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee was posted on the bulletin board. Additional nominees were requested from the floor. Ed Dorian from White Plains was nominated for Parish Council.

The names submitted by the Nominating Committee for the 1978 election were accepted.

A motion was made to go into a short recess for verifying membership status, lunch, casting ballots, and study reports received.

Meeting resumed at 2 o'clock.

Martha Gurahian made a motion that the annual reports of the church organizations as well as the Building Fund committee be dispensed with.

The minutes of the last Annual Assembly, held February 13, 1977, and of the Special Parish Assembly held on July 8, 1977 were read. Both minutes were accepted.

A motion was made by George Guendjoian to have copies of the previous Parish Assembly minutes as well as any Special Assembly minutes be made available to the members of the Assembly. The motion was seconded and carried.

The reports of the Pastor and the Parish Council were read. On behalf of the Auditing Committee, Puzant Sirabian reported that all financial records of the Church were audited by the committee and found in good commendable order.

Ed Dorian proceeded to present the budget for 1978 in the amount of \$24,000. The Assembly approved the budget, thereby approving the request of the Parish Council regarding the change of the Pastor's status as full time Pastor as of September 1978.

Next item on the agenda was the New Rochelle property. Apkar Omartian explained the Parish Council had expressed its wish to the Primate to enter into dialogue with the Seminary Administration regarding the property. The Primate had directed the Parish Council to first present its request to the Diocesan Council. This has been done by the Parish Council. In response, the Primate has notified the Parish Council to send representatives to the next Diocesan Council meeting, February 24, 1978 to discuss the matter. If approval is received at this meeting, the Parish Council will then enter into negotiations with the Board of

Directors of the Seminary, which, we were informed, meets for its annual meeting some time in June 1978. However, initial contact will be made with the Seminary Administration as soon as possible.

Judge Gurahian said the mandate of July 1977 was to negotiate for the land and still look for better property. This is to our advantage. We still need the Diocesan approval to purchase the New Rochelle property. Even if the Seminary Administration purchases this land, we must get the o.k. from the Diocese to purchase from them.

The final item on the agenda was the motion to adopt the pledge system in our parish. Apkar Omartian explained that this system involved people. We need people who will send out pledge notices, follow up to see if payment is received and pursue those not responding to the envelope system. We have 105 members, there are 55-60 families and we need \$24,000 a year to meet our operating expenses. This means approximately \$230 per person is needed.

After discussion and pro and con opinions regarding the timing, etc., Ellen Ishkanian made a motion that we adopt the pledge system. 37 voted in favor, 3 opposed. Motion was carried.

Father Kasparian requested a correction on schedule 4 of the proposed budget. Instead of Seminarians, the reading should be Theological Education Fund \$240.

The chair then recognized George Sanossian who made a motion which involved a correction he had proposed earlier. Parish Council report 1977 should read: "The net income from the raffle will be appropriated toward covering the operating deficit, if any, in the annual budget of the parish. The balance will be donated to the Building Fund subject to the recommendation of the Parish Assembly." (Delete Council and add Assembly.) The motion was so moved and carried.

The following members were elected to the Parish Council:

Barbara Dorian	Vincent Gurahian
Edward Dorian (White Plains)	Apkar Omartian
Edward Essayan	Ara Shimshidian

The following members were elected to the Nominating Committee:

Puzant Azarian	Richard Sarkissian
Grace Cassidy	Alyce Vakassian
Diane Davidian	

The following members were elected to the Auditing Committee:

Mary Azarian	Esther Ekizian
John Babakian	

Father Karekin Kasparian said in response to an earlier comment regarding direction and authority in the Parish Council, the Parish must be thankful for the dedicated work that the Parish Council is doing and he asked for a show of appreciation for them as well as for the Chairman of the Assembly, Ara Ishkanian, and the Secretary, Grace Cassidy.

With Der Hayr's benediction the Assembly was concluded.

2/21/78

Grace Cassidy, Parish Assembly Secretary