

SIXTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

The sixth Annual Parish Assembly took place February 11, 1979 at 101 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, N.Y. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

Invocation was given by Father Karekin Kasparian.

Ara Ishkanian, Parish Assembly Chairman for 1978, called the meeting to order. Voting commenced for Parish Assembly officers, and Ara Ishkanian was elected Parish Assembly Chairman, with Karen Basmajian elected as Parish Assembly Secretary. Vincent Gurahian was appointed Parliamentarian.

Puzant Sirabian presented a slate of nominees for Parish Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee. Mr. Sirabian stated that it had come to light that three of the nominees, long-standing members of the Church, had neglected to renew their dues-paid status through an oversight, and were unfortunately out of town at the time of the assembly. A discussion arose as to whether or not the three (Bob Stepanian, John Babakian, Setta Cachoian) could be voted on. Referring to the by-laws, Parliamentarian Vincent Gurahian read paragraphs 8 and 13 on page 11, regarding membership dues and when a Parish Assembly may be called, respectively. The interpretation accepted by the Chair was that the three nominees could re-instate their status up until the end of February, and therefore could be voted upon. In the event that any of the three were elected to office, and failed to re-instate their dues-paid status by the end of February, then they would automatically forfeit their right to office, with the position going to the next alternate.

I. kb. KK  
Nominations were accepted and closed, with the exception of Setta Cachoian, who will be out of town for an extended period of time, and requested ( through Mr. Ohan Bas) that her name be withdrawn from the ballot. Ed. Essayan withdrew as Diocesan Delegate nominee; Ed. S. Dorian was nominated and accepted.

A motion was made to dispense with the reading of the reports, subject to comments by the chairman of the various organizations. Motion was seconded, and carried.

Voting commenced for members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

The reports of the Pastor and the Parish Council were read. On behalf of Mary Azarian from the Auditing Committee, Father Kasparian reported that Mary Azarian and John Babakian had audited the financial records of the Church and found them to be in good commendable order.

Ed Dorian of White Plains reported on the Diocesan Assembly.

The minutes of the last Annual Assembly, held February 12, 1978, were read and accepted.

The Chair asked organizational Chairpersons to comment on their reports or organizations. Ed Essayan, Parish Council Chairman, noted that an addition should be made to the Parish Council Report, under the White Plains Arts Festival. The addition was duly noted.

Parish Assembly Chairman Ara Ishkanian expressed appreciation for all those who had prepared reports for their organizations or committees.

In a departure from the Agenda, Ed Essayan gave a report on the new property. He stated that the decision of the Planning Board was unanimous, which bodes well for the March 7 Town Board Meeting. On March 21, there will be a Public Hearing at which time residents may challenge the Westchester Church petition, after which there is a 30-day period in which any person in town can initiate a challenge action in court. Mr. Essayan reported that the attorneys are very hopeful that it will pass.

Ed Dorian presented the Treasurer's Report, the 1978 Report of Operations, the 1978 Building Fund Report and the 1979 Budget. The Assembly approved the budget for 1979 in the amount of \$55,200.

The Chair thanked Ed Dorian and Elmas Davidian for their efforts in preparing the Treasurer's Report and 1979 Budget.

A motion was made that in the future, during discussions of the Pastor's salary, the Pastor ask to be excused. Motion was seconded. Discussion followed. Motion was carried by 2 votes, with 6 abstentions. Effective with next year's Parish Assembly, if a discussion will be held regarding the Pastor's salary, the Pastor will excuse himself.

Vote of thanks was made by Ed Essayan to Ed Dorian of White Plains, Dawn Yeretskin, and Ann Bogosian for all their help over the past year, and to each of the members, present and not present, for their response and support.

A spontaneous request was made by the Assembly that volunteers be taken for Chairing events. Results as follows:

Anita Wolohojian volunteered on behalf of the School Committee to co-chair the FleaMarket/ Garage Sale.

Ethel Dorian volunteered to chair Annual Celebration.

Grace and Jim Cassidy volunteered to chair New Year's Party.

Zaven Adourian and Garo Bashian volunteered for One World Festival and Bazaar Chairmanship.

The Assembly requested that the Parish Council take into consideration

having a fall Dinner-Dance, instead of a Fall Dance.

The following members were elected to the Parish Council:

Garo Bashian	Ann Bogosian
Zaven Adourian	Ohan Bas
John Wolohojian	

First alternate: Bob Stepanian

The following members were elected to the Nominating Committee:

John Babakian	Diane Davidian
Rose Derdiarian	Anita Wolohojian
Martha Gurahian	

First alternate: Malcolm Shadoian

The following members were elected to the Auditing Committee:

Mary Azarian
Robert Bedoukian
Anita Essayan

First alternate: Rose Jaboolian

Vincent Gurahian was elected as Diocesan Delegate.

Puzant Sirabian stated that some ballots had to be voided in toto as they were unclear. These were turned over to the Chair.

The Assembly gave a vote of thanks to the Nominating Committee for their efforts, and for a job well done.

The Chair then asked if there was any New Business.

Grace Cassidy stated that some fence-mending was necessary, to ascertain why some valuable people had become inactive, or had withdrawn.

Ed Essayan made a personal appeal to all members to give generously regarding both the Annual Pledge and the Building Fund.

Rose Derdiarian made a motion that a letter be sent to Elmas Davidian thanking her for the work she has done on the books and records of the Church. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Sixth Annual Parish Assembly was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ara Ishkanian*

*Fr. Karekin Kasparian*  
Father Karekin Kasparian  
Parish Priest

*Karen Basmajian*

Karen Basmajian  
Parish Assembly Secretary

Ara Ishkanian  
Parish Assembly Chairman