

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

PURCHASE, NY

M I N U T E S

of the

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 2, 1986

The Thirteenth Annual Parish Assembly of St. James Armenian Church of Westchester commenced at 12:50 pm, shortly after completion of services, Sunday, February 2, 1986. Judge Vincent Gurahian called the Parish Assembly to order and asked Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian to open the meeting with prayers. Ann Der Boghosian, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, then took the floor.

Ann Der Boghosian thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee: Anita Essayan, Annette Bashian and Alice Shimshidian. She also thanked Benny Tepikian, our church photographer, for taking the pictures of the Parish Council candidates.

In order to facilitate this meeting, the Nominating Committee proposed the names of Daniel Mushegian as chairperson of the Parish Assembly and Grace Cassidy as secretary. Nominations from the floor were requested and, since there were none, a motion was made and carried that the above nominations be accepted by acclamation. Motion passed.

The Nominating Committee submitted 10 Parish Council candidates, six of whom were to be selected by the Assembly. The candidates were: Ohan Bas, Garo Bashian, Peter Babaian, John Boyajian, Irene Braccini, Mark Derderian, Edward Essayan, Dr. Lionel Galstaun, Martha Gurahian and Dr. Jack Hachigian. Another nominee had withdrawn her name immediately before the Assembly for personal reasons. As there were no nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded that Parish Council nominations be closed.

The Auditing Committee candidates numbered 6, only 3 to be elected. The candidates were: Mary Aslanian, Grace Cassidy, Karnik Chookhachian, Helen Kapikian, Gale Perzigian and Linda Varadian. There were no additional nominations from the floor and motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Auditing Committee.

The Nominating Committee candidates numbered 7, of whom 4 were to be elected. The candidates were: Anahid Chookhachian, Rose Darien, Anita Essayan, Ellen Ishkanian, Mark Kapikian, Florence Omartian and Aida Pisani. There were no additional nominations from the floor and motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for the Nominating Committee.

Ann Der Boghosian reminded us as to the eligibility of voters. Each paid member must sign the roster and then cast a ballot. She stressed the importance of voting only up to the number of candidates to be voted for, and not more than that, since that would render the ballot invalid.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch, voting, and also for perusal of the minutes of last year's activities.

The meeting reconvened at 1:45 pm. The Assembly chairman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes of the last Parish Assembly. As there were none, a motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as they appeared in the Annual Report.

The Pastor read his annual report, where he not only reviewed his activities, but also brought to the attention of the parishioners some basic issues and needs having to do with the spiritual and educational life of the parish, as well as the stewardship practice. The chairman expressed the gratitude and appreciation of the Assembly for Der Hayr's leadership and dedication.

Martha Gurahian, the Parish Council chairperson, read the Parish Council report and the assembly accepted it with thanks and appreciation for the devotion of the Council members.

Also, Judge Vincent Gurahian's report as Delegate to the 83rd Annual Diocesan Assembly was accepted as presented.

In regard to the other Parish reports, the chairman asked if there were any questions, comments or suggestions. There being none, a motion was made and passed to approve the reports of the church organizations.

The question was raised as to how building fund moneys were invested. Richard Varadian, financial consultant to the Parish Council, responded, saying that moneys were invested in 5 or 6 major commercial New York banks in 6 and 12 month CDs and also in money market funds. Security of funds is uppermost in our consideration of how funds are invested, he said.

George Davidian, chairman of the Building Committee, updated the Assembly, saying that the Building Committee and Parish Council are close to making a decision on an architect. The Building Committee visualizes our needs to be first a church, then a hall, and then the face of the parish house to be changed to conform with the first two. In due time a special parish assembly will be called to decide on the recommendations made by the Building Committee and the Parish Council.

Avadis Sakalian, the Parish Council treasurer, in reviewing the financial report and the proposed budget, stressed that the large bulk of our income is derived from the rug sales and we must look to other areas of income in the event rug income dwindles.

Raffi Sevadjan asked why only \$250 was appropriated for cultural programs. He was told that at this time our treasury is not in a position to allocate more money for this worthy project, but should there be a need for more than \$250 for a function, the Parish Council will then make the necessary arrangement.

We were told that a few of the parishioners have not fulfilled their pledges, thereby making it very difficult to project income.

Motion was made and passed to accept the Parish Council Treasurer's report.

Awaiting the voting results Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian made the following announcements:

Der Hayr thanked the officers of today's assembly. He especially thanked Ann Der Boghosian, Daniel Mushegian and Grace Cassidy. Mary Azarian was given special thanks for doing the 1985 auditing.

He also told the parishioners that Diane Davidian and Grace Cassidy have volunteered to instruct the treasurers of church organizations in the method of uniform bookkeeping.

Der Hayr thanked Greg Chamourian and Ara Ishkanian, our outgoing Parish Council members, for all their good efforts.

It was announced that we have a paid-up membership of 130, and 93 persons voted.

Der Hayr commended Greg Bochow, our caretaker, for all his good works; Helen Galbraith, our secretary, for her very capable work, and also noted that many persons are to be commended for their work and participation.

Der Hayr told us that there will be 3 Friday dinners during Lent; Palm Sunday, March 23rd, the ACYOA will host a Youth Day and a tree planting ceremony by the young members of our church; March 15th, in Tenafly, NJ, a spiritual renewal all-day concerence will take place. He urged all to attend these functions.

Also, we hope to have a computer next year to facilitate the elections.

Der Hayr then asked each member present to introduce themselves, inasmuch as several new members were not yet known to all.

At this point the Nominating Committee returned with the results of the election. Der Hayr announced the names of the following officers elected:

Parish Council	Ohan Bas, Garo Bashian, Edward Essayan, Dr. Lionel Galstaun, Martha Gurahian and Dr. Jack Hachigian
Auditing Committee	Grace Cassidy, Karnik Chookhachian and Linda Varadian
Nominating Committee	Anahid Chookhachian, Anita Essayan, Ellen Ishkanian and Aida Pisani

The Thirteenth Annual Parish Assembly adjourned with Der Hayr's closing prayer at 3:10 pm.

Fr. Karekin Kasparian
Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian
Pastor and President

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Cassidy
Grace Cassidy
Assembly Secretary

Daniel A. Mushegian
Daniel A. Mushegian
Assembly Chairman