

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH

PART II

Sunday, February 6, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Assembly Chairman Ronald Kenderian at 12:00 p.m. in the Church.

A motion was made by Peter Ajemian to change the order of business so we could have nominations for the candidates of the various offices. Harry Hajinlian seconded the motion and it was carried. Martha Saraydarian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the new slate which complied with our Diocesan By-Laws. With respect to the slate for Parish Council, Mrs. Saraydarian introduced the candidates. Other nominations were asked for, but no nominations were made. A motion to close the nominations was made by Harry Chakmakian, seconded by Ara Martaian and the motion carried. The candidates for the Nominating Committee were presented, with no new nominations made from the floor. Ara Martaian made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Michel Izmirly and passed. The candidates for Auditing Committee were introduced, with no new nominations being made from the floor. A motion was made by Dikris Malool to close nominations, seconded by Michel Izmirly and carried. The two candidates for Parish Assembly Chairman were introduced, and with no other nominations made from the floor, Paul Pinajian made a motion to close nominations. Harry Hajinlian seconded and the motion was carried. The two candidates for Parish Assembly Secretary were presented. There were no other nominations submitted from the floor, so a motion was made by Joseph Hovsepien to close nominations, seconded by Michel Izmirly. The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Michel Izmirly to recess for one hour in order to vote for the candidates, to have lunch, and to reconvene in the auditorium.

Aren Jebejian seconded the motion and it was carried.

Martha Saraydarian explained the new balloting system to the Assembly. She advised the members that the machine would not accept improperly marked ballots. She further indicated that such ballots would then have to be hand-counted. George Mekenian made a motion that the whole Nominating Committee screen all ballots for errors and have the improperly marked ballots separately tallied so no one would be denied their vote. John Zakar seconded this motion and it was carried.

At 12:30 p.m. the Assembly recessed to vote and to have lunch.

At 1:35 p.m. the Assembly was called to order by Chairman Kenderian in the auditorium.

Father Arnak opened the meeting with a prayer.

Albert Papazian verified the eligibility of all the voters.

Peter Ajemian made a motion to close the elections at 2:00 p.m.

Yeretzkin Violet seconded the motion and it was carried.

Joseph Kalemkerian stated that proper procedure calls for this meeting to be held in Church, and only as a matter of convenience we are holding it in the auditorium. With due respect, the same decorum should be kept, such as NO SMOKING. This was seconded by George Mekenian and (happily) carried.

Chairman Kenderian stated that copies of the Assembly Report were distributed at last week's meeting, and he called upon Father Arnak for highlights of the Pastor's Report.

Der Arnak mentioned as a point of information that among the 50 churches in our Diocese, we are considered a middle-sized parish. However, we rank 5th in the Diocese with respect to the payment of Diocesan taxes.

Der Arnak commended Peter Ajemian on his fine leadership and harmonious Parish Council and thanked the outgoing Parish Council members for their many years of dedicated service: Peter Jamgochian, Albert Papazian, Virginia Parseghian and Frank Stoneson. He also thanked Ara Babigian and Moses Kazanjian who have finished their terms but are running again. Some of the outstanding accomplishments this year were: the Junior Choir under the very capable leadership of Lillian Kasparian; the ACYOA Srs., which is not just St. Thomas Church but a regional organization, so efficiently re-organized under the direction of Douglas Tashian; and the ACYOA Jrs., which has continued in its expansion and to develop good Church members.

Der Arnak stated that we have a great challenge ahead of us with the large number of immigrants coming from the Middle East. This situation must be handled the right way, in seeking each group's strengths and by making this Church truly an Armenian Church.

Der Arnak then said a prayer for the souls of our departed members.

The minutes from last year's Parish Assembly were read by the Assembly Secretary, Eileen Barsamian. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Grace Hagopian and seconded by Alin Papazian. The motion was carried. A motion was made by Michel Izmirly to waive the reading of the minutes of the two Special Assembly Meetings held on May 23, 1982, and September 26, 1982. This motion was seconded by Yerezkin Violet and was carried.

Chairman Kenderian called upon Parish Council Chairman Peter Ajemian for highlights of the Parish Council Report. Mr. Ajemian stated that he was happy to report that everyone in this parish started pulling together and really got alot of work done and hope to do more next year. One of the

most important things that happened this year was all the work done by our very productive and conscientious Building Committee headed by Nazar Nazarian. The Membership Committee, under the leadership of Victor Arzoomanian, has shown a very positive approach to seeking new members. The Memorials Committee was reactivated under the direction of Edward Bashian and has already been hard at work. We are involved with St. Nerses Theological Seminary and are very fortunate to have Lillian Kasparian as our liason. Our St. Thomas Trustees, under the chairmanship of Edward Bashian, met with the Parish Council, and future meetings will be held as required. Mr. Ajemian stated that St. Thomas was the first church to start the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, and we are hoping to get all the existing memorial funds into the Endowment Fund. As another first, St. Thomas has committed itself to a new Stewardship Program which will be for the entire Diocese, under the chairmanship of Albert Victoria.

Mr. Ajemian then read the "St. Thomas Family" calendar of events for 1983 and the chairpersons for these events. He thanked everyone for their work and support.

Mr. Bashian commented that Peter Ajemian and the Parish Council have done a beautiful job in coordinating the various programs with our parishioners. He further stated that Mr. Ajemian is doing a wonderful job, and this should be reflected in the minutes.

John Zakar, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, stated that after some communication problems with the organizations, they did get all of the books. Although the committee found them to be in good order, they did

comment that the ACYOA Jrs.' books were not kept properly. Dikris Malool recommended that since the officers of the ACYOA Jrs. are elected every year, the Auditing Committee should review their books every month until they are kept in proper order. It was also pointed out that the the advisor to the ACYOA Jrs. should review their record-keeping.

Mr. Zakar commended Grace Hagopian for her excellent job keeping the records.

Joseph Hovsepien made a motion that each year the Parish Assembly Officers advise the elected members of the Auditing Committee, in writing, to schedule a meeting within one month of their election. At this meeting, the Committee should appoint a chairman and decide on the auditing procedures for the coming year. George Mekenian seconded and the motion was carried.

Louise Kalemkerian questioned whether or not the Parish Council planned to implement the suggestion made by Alin Papazian during last year's Assembly, regarding a two to three year term of office for the Auditing Committee. Such an increase in their term of office would enable them to do their job more efficiently and with more expertise. Peter Ajemian answered that this proposal will be submitted to the 1983 Diocesan Assembly.

Chairman Kenderian open the floor to discussion concerning the 1982 Financial Statement. Yeretzkin Violet questioned as to whether or not a donation was made to St. Nerses as per the motion that was approved during last year's Parish Assembly meeting. Grace Hagopian answered that said donation was made but was not reflected in the Financial Statement as a disbursement. Yeretzken Violet felt that the donation should be indicated on page 10 as a separate disbursement since it is of great importance to all

of us. Grace Hagopian advised the Assembly that this donation will be shown in that manner next year. George Mekenian made a motion that the Financial Report for 1982 be properly footnoted to show the source of the donation to St. Nerses. Joseph Hovsepian seconded and the motion was carried.

Grace Hagopian made a point of clarification: on page 9, Actual 1981 column, there was a correction made last year - the ACYOA Jrs. should read \$1,039. Also, the Anniversary Cake Sale should be reduced by \$1,000.

Michel Izmirly answered further questions regarding the Financial Statement. When Mr. Bashian stated that more specific figures for the Bazaar be included in the Assembly Report, Mr. Izmirly suggested that we attach the detailed report which was given at the Thank-You Bazaar Dinner.

Joseph Hovsepian made a motion that within three months from this date, when all the figures are available, a more complete Financial Statement for 1982 be submitted. George Mekenian seconded and discussion followed. Mr. Mekenian stated that it is difficult to finalize the financial reports of the various committees and organizations within ten days after the first of the year. However, within ninety days from this date, the treasurer and bookkeeper, and possibly the Auditing Committee, are able to clarify these items. The motion was carried.

Mr. Bashian commented that Michel Izmirly and Alice Arzoomanian have been doing the Financial Statement for many years, and they should be commended for all their work.

It was pointed out that the proposed income for 1982 showed proceeds from a car raffle, which event did not take place. A member of the Men's Club indicated that the car raffle will be scheduled for the Memorial Day Picnic, and they have decided to raffle a 1983 Audi. The members of the Men's Club felt that there would be a better response if the raffle were held during a major event.

Joseph Kalemkerian asked for the present number of Church members. Albert Papazian replied that we have 184 family members and 55 single members. Chairman Kenderian suggested that this should be made part of the Parish Council Report.

Chairman Kenderian asked for comments on the following funds and organizations:

Casper M. Kasparian Memorial Fund - no comments.

George Shahinian Memorial Fund - no comments.

ACYOA Srs. - Douglas Tashian thanked the Parish Council for its commitment this year in getting the young adults involved in the Church. Without this commitment, they would not have had a successful year.

ACYOA Jrs. - no comments.

Armenian Language School Report - no comments.

Avak Society - no comments.

Choir - no comments.

Men's Club - no comments.

Women's Guild - Yeretzkin Violet stated that in 1982, the Women's Guild gave \$7,000. However, it should be footnoted that in 1981, they had given \$1,500 over their pledge, and this should be applied towards their 1982 pledge of \$8,500. It was so noted.

Christian Education Report - Louise Kalemkerian stated that it should be reflected in the minutes that a film series entitled "Focus on the Family" took place in February and March of 1982. This was inadvertently omitted from the report.

Building Committee - Nazar Nazarian, Chairman, deferred to Vay Najarian to give a general review of the priorities of the new project authorized by the Special Assembly. The heating system will be operational very soon. Also planned are four extra classrooms, enclosure of the outside foyer, additional storage room and possible extension of the kitchen facilities. The architect has proposed to add to the plans an ACYOA youth room. Also being considered are a pastor's office, secretary's office and a library. At the Building Committee's request, the architect has submitted two possible renditions, and the best one will be chosen. The architect has also submitted a new master plan which the Committee hopes to make available to the parish very soon. Eight members of our parish have already pledged \$110,000, and a fund drive, under the chairmanship of Richard Turnamian, will be initiated in the near future.

Joseph Kalemkerian stated that while he understands that the Building Committee has a difficult task ahead of it, he feels it is improper to mention in the Beacon that the Committee meets on Sunday mornings. Mr. Najarian assured him that it will no longer appear in the Beacon.

Joseph Hovsepian made a motion to accept all reports submitted, as amended. This was seconded by Arthur Azarik and carried.

Mr. Rupen Saddler made a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by Mr. Bashian. Yeretzkian Violet made a motion to reduce the commitment from

the Women's Guild from \$10,000 to \$8,500. This motion was seconded by Alicia Demirjian and carried. Then the motion to accept the proposed budget with the revision was carried.

RESULTS OF THE BALLOTING

At only 3:15 p.m., Martha Saraydarian reported that the votes had been counted in one-half hour because of the new computerized machine. She thanked all the members of the Nominating Committee, and she varified the eligibility of all the voters. Mrs. Sarayderian was happy to announce that out of the 116 ballots cast, there were only two errors. Those two ballots were then hand-counted.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ara Babigian	Moses Kazanjian	Edward Parseghian
Joseph Hovsepien	Gerald Keosayian	Douglas Tashjian
<u>Alternate</u> - Lucy Nakashian		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Victor Arzoomanian	Lillian Kasparian	Mary Ann Saraydarian
Edward Bashian	Zaven Poosikian	
<u>Alternate</u> - Martha Saraydarian		

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Michel Izmirly	Artemis Nazarian
Dikris Malool	
<u>Alternate</u> - Ardis Kasparian	

OFFICERS FOR 1983 ASSEMBLY

<u>Chairman</u> Antranig Ouzoonian	<u>Co-Chairman</u> Arthur Otchy
<u>Secretary</u> Sona Damergy	<u>Alternate Secretary</u> Sandra Alpino

Michel Izmirly orally submitted his resignation from the Auditing Committee. He felt that the alternate, Ardis Kasparian, should replace him, and that he would be helping the Committee anyway.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Ohan Armodian stated that there exists a problem in our Church between overseas members and American-born members. The new Parish Council should put every effort in bringing together these two communities so that we will have a better and stronger St. Thomas Church. Also, the new Parish Council should have responsible greeters on Sunday mornings to welcome prospective members by showing interest and making them feel at ease and at home at St. Thomas Church.

Susan Shamamian made the point that some members left Church without voting when they found out that voting would not begin until after Church services. She suggested that next year a notice of the time when balloting will begin should be sent out to our members. In addition, a sample ballot should be sent to our parishioners so they can become familiar with the new balloting system.

Chairman Kenderian questioned the need for the two-week session next year for the Parish Assembly. Peter Jamgochian stated that a short session the week before is still necessary. In this way, nominations from the floor can appear on the ballot. The members decided to keep the two-week Assembly format for next year.

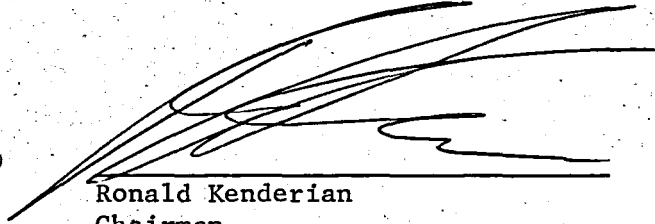
A motion to adjourn was made by Virginia Parseghian at 3:25 p.m.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Rupen Saddler and carried.

The Assembly was adjourned with a closing prayer by Der Arnak.



Eileen Barsamian
Secretary



Ronald Kenderian
Chairman



Rev. Arnak Kasparian
President

Approved and Ratified:
