

**29TH PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

SESSION I - SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1994

After establishing a quorum at least 50 qualified parishioners, the meeting was opened. The meeting opened with a prayer by Very Rev. Father Papken Dz.V. Anoushian, Pastor and President, and was called to order by Chairman Antranig Ouzoonian at 1:00 p.m. Chairman Ouzoonian then reviewed the agenda of the meeting, beginning with the reading of the minutes, introduction of candidates, nominations of candidates from the floor, and a review of the agenda for Session II.

Mr. Ara Babigian asked for permission to read New Jersey State Statute 15A 5-8 regarding this meeting. He read the following ".....". Chairman Ouzoonian asked if this statute applied to charitable organizations and Ara Babigian replied affirmatively, stating that, this applies to organizations and, non-profit corporations..

Chairman Ouzoonian paraphrased the statute which requires that a list of eligible members be available for review by any qualified member during a meeting or any subsequent meeting. Chairman Ouzoonian then asked Ara Babigian to come forward and read the statute again.

In response to a question by Rose Mekenian, Chairman Ouzoonian clarified that this was the 29th Annual Assembly of the St. Thomas Armenian Church, although Assemblies prior to 1965 had been held when the Parish was previously known as the Armenian Church of Bergen County.

Mr. Ara Babigian came forward, introduced himself and re-read the legislation in question. Chairman Ouzoonian stated that the list was available at the back of the Church in the custody of Seta Kantardjian and was there to be seen by anyone who wanted during the meeting. He explained that they could review it, but not make copies of it. However, Ara Babigian insisted on taking notes, although the statute 15A 5-8 did not allow.

Mr. Leon Nigohosian asked for the date of the legislation. When told it was October 1, 1983, he asked if there was a supplement to this legislation. Mr. Nigohosian stated that since it was a ten year old law, there might be a supplement that might have changed it. Dr. Levon Capan further stated that the St. Thomas Armenian Church operates under the jurisdiction of the Diocese, and accordingly, in 1988 a Diocesan directive stated that church membership lists could be reviewed only on church property and could not leave the premises.

Mr. Ara Babigian then read a letter from the attorney representing him and Mr. Edward Parseghian (a copy of this letter is attached to these minutes). Fr. Papken, responding to Mr. Babigian, stated that Mr. Babigian came to the church office monthly to

request these records so that the Men's Club could review them to prepare a list of candidates. Fr. Papken reiterated the Diocesan directory of February 1988 stating that this list could be reviewed on church premises and not removed from there. Therefore, we declined to give the list to Mr. Babigian.

Fr. Papken continued to explain that he then received a letter from the lawyer representing Ara Babigian and Edward Parseghian threatening to sue the church. The Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian confirmed that the list should not be given and that he would respond to the lawyer at this point. The lawyer agreed that the membership list could be reviewed on the premises of the church. Fr. Papken then sent a letter to both Ara Babigian and the lawyer confirming this decision.

At this point, Fr. Papken wrote Ara Babigian that all further communications should be through the lawyer and not with the client. However, in the spirit of Christianity, and in the spirit of brotherhood, he would allow the client to review the list of eligible members on Friday, February 4th, 1994. Also on January 27th, 1994, he mailed and faxed a copy of a letter to this effect to the lawyer and as of this moment, no reply has been received.

Chairman Ouzoonian asked that this subject be noted in the minutes and that it be tabled until next week. Puzant Torigian asked who the lawyer for the church was, and Fr. Papken answered Leon Nigohosian. Dr. Levon Capan moved that since this matter was in the hands of attorneys, it should not be discussed at this time (but at Session II, next Sunday). It was seconded by Jack Charshafian with an objection by Edward Parseghian who asked if Ara Babigian could review the list. Chairman Ouzoonian stated that today's meeting should not be interrupted by this question, and that the list would be available next Friday.

Chairman Ouzoonian called for a vote on the motion. The motion was carried and this matter was tabled.

Chairman Ouzoonian then called for the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Jeanie Amerkanian, to come forward. Mr. Ara Babigian read another letter from his lawyer asking for adjournment of this meeting since Fr. Anoushian did not comply with supplying a list of eligible voters, and therefore, anything happening at this meeting was void. Chairman Ouzoonian asked that this be noted in the record, sent to the President and forwarded to the Primate in 7 days. He added that if anyone felt that this was an illegal meeting, they had 7 days to notify the Pastor and he could send that complaint to the Primate. (This letter is attached as part of these minutes.) Chairman Ouzoonian then introduced the officers of the Assembly, with Fr. Papken as President, Sylva Torosian as Alternate Secretary to Mary Ann Saraydarian who was unable to serve, and himself as Chairman. He now asked for the minutes of last year's meeting. Seta Yavru-Sakuk made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes since they were in the annual report. Chairman Ouzoonian added that additions or corrections could be made at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and passed.

Mrs. Amerkanian then introduced the following candidates for Parish Council: Ann Ajemian, Arpi Arslanian, Ayda Bozian, Dr. Levon Capan, Alice Gesar, Lusi Ezgilioglu, Grace Hagopian, Kevork Keskinian, Susan Shamamian, and Shake Torigian. Chairman Ouzoonian then asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Parish Council. Ara Martaian nominated Paul Kahaumjian; Edward Parseghian nominated Ara Babigian and Haig Varjian. Ara Babigian nominated Edward Parseghian and Mary Ann Saraydarian nominated Ara Martaian. Nominations were seconded and the nominees accepted the nominations. The nominees came forward to be introduced. Henry Hagopian made a motion to close nominations from the floor.

Chairman Ouzoonian requested that all new candidates for Parish Council send their biographies to the church office by 4:00 p.m. tomorrow so that they could be mailed to the membership.

The candidates for Diocesan Delegates were called in order as follows: Varoujan Aslanian, Victor Arzoumanian, Ayda Bozian, Dr. Levon Capan, Lusi Ezgilioglu, Alice Gesar, Levon Nazarian, Rita Keskinian, George Mekenian, Dr. Harout Mekhjian, Gregory Saraydarian, Shakaeh Shahinian, Al Victoria, Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

Paul Kahaumjian nominated Ara Martaian from the floor for Diocesan Delegate. Mary Sanossian moved to close the nominations, seconded by Grace Hagopian. Rose Mekenian made a motion that all the Diocesan Delegate candidates submit biographies since it was an important position. The motion was seconded by May Simsarian. The motion was not carried.

Nominees for the Nominating Committee were presented as follows: Eugenie Amerkanian, Verken Berberian, Mary Camcikian, Natalie Capan, Viken Ezgilioglu, Ani Kecoglu, Irma Saganda, Arshalouys Shahinian, Marie Zokian. Nominations from the floor by Edward Parseghian were: Marion Kahaumjian, Shakaeh Shahinian, Mary Varteresian, and Susan Avakian/Stoneson. Ara Martaian nominated Martha Saraydarian who declined. Nominations were closed.

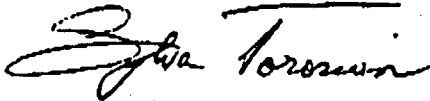
The Auditing Committee nominees were presented as follows: Greg Amerkanian, Sandra Alpino, Natalie Capan, Murad Halajian, Araxie Pichigian and Joseph Zokian. There were no further nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. Rose Mekenian noted Diocesan By-law #7 states that candidates must be members at least for 6 months, but would not be eligible for office unless they were members for 1 year. Chairman Ouzoonian asked the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Eugene Amerkanian, whether all candidates meet the requirements. The response was in the affirmative.

Nominating Committee Chairperson Mrs. Amerkanian announced 1995 Assembly Chairman candidates were Leon Nigohosian and Albert Victoria. Haig Varjian nominated Andy Ouzoonian from the floor. Madlen Setian was the only nominee for Secretary. Ani Capan, Seta Yavru and Martha Saraydarian declined nominations from the floor.

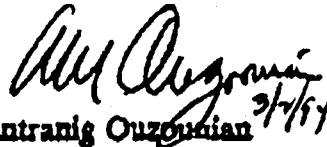
Mrs. Amerkarian then thanked her committee for their work: Verkon Berberian, Aram Setian, Albert Victoria and Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. Chairman Ouzoonian then asked all the candidates for Parish Council to go to the Mekhjian Atrium after the meeting to have their pictures taken.

Leon Nigobosian then moved to have elections opened at 12:00 pm and end 2:30 pm next Sunday. Chairman Ouzoonian stated that balloting would have to start after church and the establishment of the quorum. Balloting would close at 2:30 pm. Dr. Yavru-Sakuk seconded. The motion was carried. Chairman Ouzoonian entertained the motion to close the meeting. George Mekenian made the motion and Mary Sanossian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

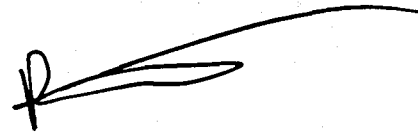
Respectfully submitted,



Sylva Torosian
Alternate Secretary
1994 Parish Assembly



Antranig Ouzoonian
Chairman
1994 Parish Assembly



V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian
Pastor & President