

**Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly
Sunday, February 2, 1997**

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was held on Sunday, February 2, 1997 in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, following Church Services.

The opening prayer was offered by Reverend Father Mampre A. Kouzouian, Pastor, who asked those present to join with him in reciting the prayer in both Armenian and English.

The Assembly was called to order by George W. Haroutunian, Chairman of the Parish Council, at 1:00 p.m.

Esther Jamgochian, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate for the day's Tivan as follows:

Chairman: Aram Hintlian, Jr. and Albert Zouranjian

Further nominations were asked from the floor and there were none. Aram Hintlian declined his nomination and since there were no further nominations, a Motion was made and seconded that Albert Zouranjian be elected as Chairman of the Assembly. MOTION PASSED.

Mrs. Jamgochian offered two names for candidates as Recording Secretary: Julie Stephanian and Rose Minassian and asked for additional candidates from the floor and there were none. Mrs. Stephanian declined her nomination for Secretary. Since there were no further nominations from the floor, a Motion was made and seconded that Rose Minassian be elected as Recording Secretary of the Assembly. MOTION PASSED.

It was noted that a quorum was present to hold the elections. There were one hundred twenty (120) members present, and one hundred twenty (120) ballots cast.

A Motion was made and seconded to accept the 1996 Assembly Minutes as printed in the Annual Report. MOTION PASSED.

Mrs. Jamgochian then announced the candidates for Parish Council and asked them to step forward as an introduction to Assembly members.

The nominees for Parish Council (six to be elected) were as follows:

Kevork Atiniz	Michael R. Balian
Haig Bedigian	Gerald Boghosian*
Gary Boyajian	Florence Cirino*
David Der Vartanian	George W. Haroutunian*
Gregory Hintlian*	Catherine Minassian*
Oves Ovesian	Edward J. Panjian

* indicates incumbent

Any ballot having more or less than six (6) votes would be invalid. Additional names for nomination for Parish Council were entertained. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close nominations for Parish Council. MOTION PASSED.

The nominees for Auditing Committee (one to be elected) were as follows:

Vivian F. Mosgofian

Robert H. Takvorian

Any ballot having more or less than one vote would be considered invalid. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to accept the above names as candidates. MOTION PASSED.

The nominees for Nominating Committee (five to be elected) were as follows:

George Bagdasarian

William H. Martin

John Bichajian, Jr.

Gerald Odabashian

Ruth E. Boghosian

Debra Stevens

Edmund J. Danielson

Thomas Stephanian, Jr.

Nancy E. Hintlian*

Diran A. Zahigian

* indicates incumbent

Any ballot having more or less than five votes would be considered invalid. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to accept the above names as candidates. MOTION PASSED.

There was a short recess in the proceedings for the purpose of voting at 1:30 p.m.. The Meeting was reconvened at 1:45 p.m. by the Chairman.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 1996

Father Mampre Kouzouian outlined his report emphasizing important information. He expressed his gratitude to the Parishioners for their support and dedication; George Haroutunian, Chairman of the Parish Council, for his leadership; Parish Council members; the Diocesan Delegates; Trust Fund members; teachers and staff of the Sunday and Armenian Schools; the Deacons and members of the Choir; Altar Servers; the Organists; and the many volunteers who are always there to assist at the office and work at Church affairs. Father Mampre also thanked the benefactors of our Church and, because of their generosity, special projects within our Parish were possible. Father Mampre also extended his appreciation to the continued dedication of the office staff under the capable direction of Nancy Kasarjian, Executive Director, and the custodians of our Church.

Father Mampre stressed the need for more participation by our parishioners at Church Services. He emphasized that "the Church is the center of our Christian Life and must serve to inspire and strengthen the spiritual life of our people". He further expressed his appreciation to the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Minassian, Choir Director, who also on occasion has delivered homilies in our Church.

Father Mampre stated he had performed the following sacraments and services during 1996. They included 30 baptisms, 29 funerals, and 10 weddings. He noted that

the number of baptisms was the largest in the last 10 years. He stated that the Sunday School has an enrollment of 127 students, 19 teachers. He thanked Seta Buchter, Superintendent, the dedicated teachers and staff members. He also extended his appreciation to those who morally and financially support the Sunday School. In his report Father Mampre commented that Seta Buchter and Cathy Minassian have volunteered their services to the youth of our Parish. He stated that the Parish Council is in the process of looking for a Youth Director.

The Pastor praised the efforts of Aetna and Araksie Tashjian whose project to have two generators installed at the Meghete Sanitorium in Dilijian, Armenia has been completed. He also thanked the parishioners and friends who contributed \$15,000 to this project. He also thanked FAR for overseeing this project in Armenia and its Director, Yeznig Balian. The generators are now functioning and pictures will be forthcoming.

Father Mampre further stated that our Church has contributed \$3,700 to the Seminary of Holy Etchmiadzin. This amount was derived from the annual income contributed by parishioners through the Trust Fund.

He stated that we were chosen to have His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, preside at Divine Liturgy in our Church and attend a luncheon in his honor during his Pontifical Visit to the New England region on January 17-19, 1996.

Despite a storm and heavy rains, he stated, more than 250 parishioners were present on October 20, 1996 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our first Church in Boston and the 35th Anniversary of our present Church. Our Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the morning and presided at banquet held in the Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. The keynote speaker at the banquet was Michael Ohanian, one of the original members of the Building Committee for our present Church in Cambridge.

Father Mampre commented on low attendance in Church on Sunday mornings. A committee had been formed to come up with strategies to increase attendance. Since that time a group made up from the Couples Club, Sunday School parents and young single people in our parish have been meeting on an informal basis to discuss such issues and have social functions. It was felt that the church attendance committee be dissolved and that we should work on ways to increase attendance at church through the new group.

PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR 1996

George W. Haroutunian, Chairman of the Parish Council, addressed the Assembly. He stated that it was the duty of the Parish Council to oversee the management of the Church Parish and its many activities. Mr. Haroutunian commended the Teen Seminar students of the Sunday School who have assisted the Parish Council on periodic Sunday mornings. He stated that due to the coordination of Deacon Gregory Krikorian and Sunday School Superintendent Seta Buchter, our Junior Choir is in its

second year. In the Parish Council Report, Mr. Haroutunian highlighted the many activities that the Parish had in 1996, including the Annual Trinity Festival and the Stewardship Banquet observing the 75th Anniversary of the purchase of our first Church in Boston and the 35th Anniversary of the Consecration of our present Church in Cambridge. At this banquet, it was announced that two scholarships were to be awarded to worthy students attending the Cambridge Rindge & Latin School and a City of Boston public high school. He extended his gratitude to Donald & Barbara Tellalian, Eugene & Queenie Raphaelian, and Aetna & Araksie Tashjian for their efforts and recommendations in this project.

Another highlight of the year took place in September when Herbert Benson, MD, Associate Professor of the Harvard Medical School, spoke after church services on "The Healing Power of Prayer".

Mr. Haroutunian spoke of two major problems which exist in the structure of our Church. They are the leak in the main Dome and the Church's heating system. He stated that with the assistance of Donald Tellalian, an architect, progress is being made on the Church Dome problem. A special committee was formed and has engaged the services of a respected waterproofing company to perform testing and provide a report and cost estimate for the needed repairs to the dome.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1996

Gregory Hintlian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, addressed questions from the Assembly on the 1996 Financial Report. A question was raised about what the \$28,000 General Contributions line item was on the income statement. It was answered that the amount is clarified in the Income Exhibits and represents the contributions turned over to the Church from its affiliated organizations such as the '1000 Club' and the Women's Guild. There being no further questions with the report, a motion was made and seconded to accept the financial report and budget for 1997. MOTION PASSED

A question was raised in regard to how many times a year the Trust Fund Committee met. Members of the Trust Fund Committee meet informally to discuss issues. The last formal meeting called by the committee was a year ago. It was suggested that the portfolio of the Trust Fund be reviewed.

ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS

ACYOA Jrs.: Laura Abkarian, current Chairman of the Juniors, presented a report of the organization's activities in 1996 which included hosting a parish Poon Paregentan celebration, hosting a Palm Sunday Banquet celebrating the 50th Anniversary of ACYOA, and hosting a parish Thanksgiving Family Luncheon. The group also serves at church banquets, participates in the Trinity Bazaar, and hosts Fellowship hours after Church on Sundays. They have had ski trips, attended baseball games and had parties for their active membership of 26.

Senior Women's Guild: Helen Donabedian, Chairman, noted that in addition to what is listed in the report, the group visited the Armenian Nursing Home. She also noted that the line item listed as a \$1,999 Donation under income should be broken down into \$999 as Donation and \$1,000 as a Gift from Charles Sahagian in memory of his mother.

Choir: Helen Krikorian reported that the number of members of the Church Choir is increasing. They hope to do even better this year under the direction of Father Oshagan.

1000 Club: Bob Takvorian, Chairman of the 1000 Club, noted that there are 250 numbers that are not sold. This represents about \$15,000 in income that could come to the Church, if they were bought. Bob reminded those present that a 1000 Club number is a great gift that offers 144 chances to win during a year, and only costs \$60.

Erevan Choral Society: Father Osaghan thanked everyone for their support of the group.

Armenian School: Diran Zahigian reported that the number of students has increased to 19, but we need more. The Armenian School is offered free to our parishioners and he encouraged parents and grandparents to bring their children to the school.

NEW BUSINESS

A general discussion was held until the counting of ballots was completed. Father Mampre opened the discussion stating that the assistance of all parishioners is needed to come up with ideas as to how we can increase church attendance on Sunday mornings. A suggestion was offered that we call individuals to find out why they are not coming to Church. Helen Donabedian, Chairman of the Senior Women's Guild, told the Assembly that prior to their meetings she calls the members and reminds them of the meeting, and Father Mampre has requested that if someone could not attend because of transportation, to let him know and he would see that a ride to the meeting is arranged. Father Mampre thanked Mrs. Donabedian for calling the members and stated that she is doing a great service for our church. Father Mampre acknowledged the attendance at the Parish Assembly of Mrs. Altoon Zahigian, a senior member of our parish, after an extended absence and wished her good health in the future. He also stated that he would welcome volunteers to use the Church facilities to contact absent members.

Father Mampre congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Norair Odabashian, whose son, Deacon Norman, was ordained as a Priest in December and serves as Pastor of the church in Cleveland.

Regarding other issues within the Parish and Diocese, Donald Tellalian suggested that we inform parishioners if they have any proposals to submit to the Diocesan

Assembly that they should bring it to the attention of the parish for consideration at the parish's annual assembly. This may be done by informing members through the notification that goes out to parishioners for the parish annual assembly. Issues that the Parish Assembly acted on could then be compiled and submitted by Diocesan Delegates in time for the Annual Diocesan Assembly. It was also suggested that a Diocesan Delegate report be included in the Annual Parish Report.

ELECTION RESULTS

Mrs. Jamgochian announced the ballots were tallied and the results of the election as follows:

Parish Council (120 ballots cast)

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. George Haroutunian 106 | 4. Catherine Minassian 93 |
| 2. Gerald Boghosian 104 | 5. Florence Cirino 91 |
| 3. Gregory Hintlian 99 | 6. David DerVartanian 89 |
| | Alternate: Kevork Atiniz 62 |

Auditing Committee (120 ballots cast)

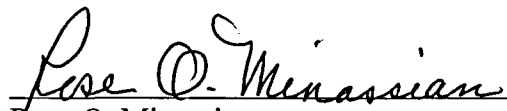
Robert H. Takvorian 104


Nominating Committee (120 ballots cast)

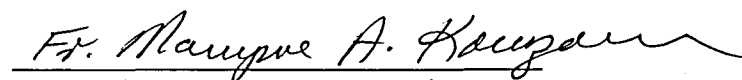
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|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Diran Zahigian 96 | 4. Nancy Hintlian 78 |
| 2. William H. Martin 94 | 5. Edmund Danielson 68 |
| 3. Ruth E. Boghosian 90 | Alternate: John Bichajian, Jr. 53 |

Father Mampre thanked Albert Zouranjian for his leadership as Chairman of the Assembly and Rose Minassian for serving as Recording Secretary. A motion was made and seconded at 3:25 p.m., that the 1997 Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston be adjourned. MOTION PASSED The benediction was offered by Reverend Father Mampre Kouzouian, Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose O. Minassian
Recording Secretary


Albert Zouranjian
Chairman


Rev. Father Mampre A. Kouzouian
Parish Priest