

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

May 1-2, 1970

Holy Trinity Armenian Church

Cheltenham, Pa.

The 68th Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church of America convened on Friday, May 1, 1970, at the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, in Cheltenham, Pa., with 130 of the 153 lay and religious delegates present. Judge John Nazarian of Providence, the previous year's assembly chairman, was reelected and conducted the meetings.

The assembly made the following decisions:

1. It was decided to authorize the Diocesan Council to activate the diocesan library and to provide the necessary personnel and funds for that purpose.
2. Two amendments were passed for the second successive year admitting eighteen year-olds to church membership and giving them the right to vote under the same conditions as any other member. They must pay the same annual dues. However, they may hold office after they have been members of the church for at least one year.
3. The proposal to institute a system of rotating the clergy on a regular basis was referred to a committee for study and recommendations at the next assembly.
4. The assembly passed a resolution directing the Diocesan Council to request His Holiness' permission to appoint a committee to study the feasibility of new rules concerning celibacy for service in the church in America. The committee should report to the assembly in 1971.
5. Again, the assembly directed the Diocesan Council to request His Holiness' permission to initiate studies to provide guidelines for changing the celebration of the liturgy and other services. These proposed changes would be adopted by this diocese upon approval by the catholicos.
6. The assembly was urged to carry out a 1965 decision to establish a vicarage in the Midwest and to allot money in the current budget for same. The proposal was approved, but no money was set aside for that purpose.
7. The assembly voted approval of an amendment to make all priests and clergy of higher ranks under the jurisdiction of the diocese permanent members of the diocesan assembly.

8. An amendment was approved providing for the election of a Nominating, a Proposals, and a Budget Committee for a term of one year, beginning at the end of the assembly just ended and terminating at the conclusion of the following assembly. Both amendments were considered for the first time and must be approved again before they become part of the by-laws.

9. The reorganization plan for the diocesan office, submitted by the Diocesan Council, was approved.

10. A budget of \$233,480 was approved for the year 1970.

11. His Excellency, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, was reelected primate for another four-year term.

The assembly adjourned on Saturday, May 2, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


James Etmekjian

February 28, 1971