

MINUTES OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON JANUARY 27, 1985

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension commenced at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, 1985.

Invocation was given by Der Untzag Nalbandian.

Verification of dues paying members was made by Dr. Berdj Harabedian. There were 44 eligible, voting members present. Total paid membership in parish was 92.

Ralph Trapasso was elected Assembly Chairman and Sonia Trapasso was elected Assembly Secretary.

Minutes of the 1984 Parish Assembly were read by the secretary, corrected and approved.

Elections for new Parish Council Members, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee commenced. Peter Kapusuzian read the names on the ballots and passed them out to each eligible member. He explained that room was left on each ballot for nominations from the floor. Dr. Harabedian pointed out to the Assembly that Wilma Petrossian and Marty Moomjian had not paid their 1984 dues, and, therefore, were not eligible to run. A discussion followed, and it was decided to remove their names from the ballot.

Steve Goomrigian made the suggestion that a retired person serving on the Parish Council would be very beneficial and nominated Leo Malkasian for the Parish Council. Agnes Kapusuzian seconded.

Nicky Taraian and Annie Khachian were nominated from the floor to run on the Auditing Committee.

Harry Tashjian made a suggestion that in the future members of the Nominating Committee make sure all dues are paid or will be paid by the end of the year before a person's name was placed on the ballot.

A discussion was held about the possibility of putting a deadline on paying dues in order to avoid this kind of misunderstanding in the future, possibly July 1st.

It was suggested and agreed that reminding our parishioners to pay their dues before the end of year by means of the "ANI" would be a great help.

Pastor's Report was given by Der Untzag. Although Der Untzag's official report was given in English, he began by speaking in Armenian as "this is an Armenian Church". He spoke of the 10 goals he had set for himself when he arrived to our Parish 1 year and 10 days ago. He stated he had been successful in accomplishing 9 out of his 10 goals. He had visited 120 homes and his visitations were still continuing, and it will probably take at least another year to complete.

Der Untzag continued his report in English, commenting on his year's activities, thanked the officers and workers in each organization, with special thanks going to the Consecration Committee and the Godfather's Committee. He also spoke about the need for more cultural and social activities in our church, and requested that all of us try to be more active and support the Parish Council and the Priest as much as possible. He urged us to be more positive in our attitude. Der Untzag's report was accepted as read.

At this time, voting results were presented by the Nominating Committee as follows:

| <u>Parish Council</u> | <u>Auditing Committee</u> | <u>Nominating Committee</u> |
|--|--|--|
| Harry Tashjian Mardy Azarian Garo Garabedian | Ralph Trapasso Jack Bousian Dr. Berdj Harabedian | Peter Kapusuzian Rose Shegerian Theresa Harabedian |

Peter Kapusuzian explained one ballot for Parish Council had been destroyed as someone had voted for four persons instead of three.

Parish Council Report was given by Chairman Mardy Azarian. Mr. Azarian highlighted their year's activities and future plans. After a short discussion regarding a special Oriental Rug Sale to be held in 1985, the report was accepted as read.

Ladies Guild Report was given by Marie Yapoujian and accepted as read.

Ladies Guild Financial Report was given by Treasurer Nicky Taraian. She reported a balance of \$1675.96 in the treasury and presented the Parish Council with a check in the amount of \$1,400. The report was accepted as read.

Choir Report and Treasurer's Report were given by Choir Chairman Charles Balian. He reported a balance of \$1,249.12 in the treasury and presented the Parish Council with a check for \$800. The report was accepted as read.

Sunday School Report was given by Superintendent Theresa Harabedian. She reported a balance of \$1,569.07 in the treasury and presented the Parish Council with a check for \$1,000. The report was accepted as read.

Armenian School Report was given by Marie Yapoujian. Marie's report was special in that she told us about the extraordinary week she had spent at the Diocese this past summer training to be a better Armenian School teacher. She concluded her report by urging all of us to learn our beautiful Armenian language. The report was accepted as read.

ACYOA Srs. Report - No report was presented at the assembly.

ACYOA Jrs. Report was given by Kim Kasparian. She reported a balance of \$592.61 and presented the Parish Council with a check for \$300. The report was accepted as read.

Bazaar Report was given by Treasurer Ralph Trapasso. He passed out copies of the financial report showing a net profit of \$13,459.87. The report was accepted as read.

Peter Kapusuzian extended special thanks to the Bazaar Committee for all their efforts, especially to co-chairmen Theresa Harabedian and Gladys Jevarjian.

Diocesan Delegate's Report was given by Delegate Dr. Berdj Harabedian. The report was accepted as read.

Building Committee Report was given by Richard Khachian. The report was accepted as read.

Auditing Committee Report was given by Dr. Berdj Harabedian. The report was accepted as read.

At this time Parish Council Chairman Mardy Azarian spoke about the importance of serving on the Parish Council and the other committees, and thanked everyone who had been willing to serve.

Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 1985 - Parish Council Treasurer, Steve Goomrigian, passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget to the membership and reviewed all items. He entertained questions from the membership. He specifically requested that we should make all donations to the church by check, and we should indicate on the check exactly what it is for. He also suggested the possibility of "bonding", as large sums of money are sometimes on hand.

A discussion on the Financial Report and Proposed Budget followed on: 1) The possibility of placing a lock on the telephone in church as it is believed some parishioners may be using the phone for personal long distance calls. No action was taken at this time. 2) Theresa Harabedian questioned the proposed income from the "ANI" for 1985 - she felt the sum was unrealistic. 3) George Maljanian asked about the possibility of increasing the parish house rent. Mardy Azarian stated the idea had been explored and decided against. However, the Nursery School rental had been increased by 10%. 4) Questions were raised concerning clergy insurance, and whether clergy were receiving full benefits from the Diocesan insurance package. Questions could not be answered satisfactorily, as clergy insurances are governed by the Diocese, even though the premiums are paid by individual parishes.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

New business matters were discussed as follows:

Shavarsh Papazian wanted to know how much income had the church derived from the Godfathers' Pledges during the Church Consecration. Fraij Yapoujian asked if pledges from the Godfathers were on target. Dr. Berdj Harabedian responded to both their questions satisfactorily.

Richard Kalfaian suggested that in the future all committee reports be ready and sent to the parishioners a month before the Parish Assembly, so everyone will have ample time to review and prepare their questions. A discussion followed and it was decided this would not be feasible as all reports are as of December 31, and the Assembly is held in mid January. Fraij Yapoujian made a motion that in the future all reports, especially financial reports, be available at the beginning of the meeting, so parishioners could have sufficient time to review them. Motion was seconded by Archie Misakian. Motion carried.

Der Untzag spoke at this time and stated he wished to comment on three items. 1) He is disappointed with our Church attendance. He feels that once the original enthusiasm and curiosity of his arrival was gone, people stopped coming. He explained how he works very hard and prepares at least 50 sermons during the year and the least we can do is come and listen. He urged all of us to attend church and bring our children more regularly.

2) In regard to the Annual Parish Assembly, Der Untzag feels attendance is poor. He feels people who are absent have so much to say on the outside, but the right place for them to speak is at these meetings. Der Untzag also stated he feels one Assembly Meeting per year is not enough. One afternoon per year is not sufficient time to address all the problems that come throughout the year. The possibility of having 2 Parish Assembly Meetings was discussed. The second meeting would not be an official one, as required by the Diocese, but it would be an "informational and progress" type of an assembly. Dick Kalfaian made a motion that such a Parish Assembly meeting be held no later than September 1985. Jack Bousian seconded. Motion carried.

3) 70th Anniversary Commemoration of Martyrs Day - Der Untzag feels we should really be very strong in remembering our martyrs with special cultural and church activities. He feels we should have programs that will appeal to our young people, even if such programs prove to be expensive. He feels it is very important to have such activities in our Church, but, unfortunately, he is not getting the proper encouragement from all our parishioners.

Steve Goomrigian commented about the same people being here at all the affairs, and spoke about the importance of getting more people involved.

Herbert Avakian suggested having more dances as a means of bringing more of our young people to Armenian affairs, and introducing them to Armenian music and possibly to Church.

Theresa Harabedian suggested we rent a van on Sundays and bring the elderly people who have no transportation to Church. Nancy Hovhanesian suggested we make a list of all such parishioners who wish to attend Church

but have no way of getting here and then have other parishioners who live near them pick them up and bring them to Church.

Dr. Berdj Harabedian spoke about the decrease in dues paying members. He explained the number is getting smaller and, therefore, it is harder every year to get people to run for various offices. He feels we should try to enroll more members, even though that would mean paying higher dues to the Diocese.

A discussion followed as to whose responsibility it is to enroll members. It was suggested that a membership committee should be formed to work with Der Untzag in trying to increase the membership. Dr. Harabedian suggested a member of the Parish Council should be on such a committee. No action was taken.

Nancy Hovhanesian suggested using the "ANI" to urge parishioners to become dues paying members. Also, to urge all parishioners to pay their dues on time.

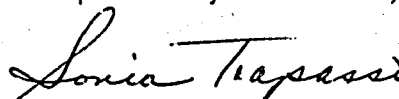
Mardy Azarian spoke of the importance of getting younger people to serve on the Parish Council. He suggested to the Nominating Committee that next year they concentrate on a younger group.

Der Untzag spoke about the Banquet in Washington on February 23rd honoring Governor Deukmejian of California and all the survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. He explained this affair is being sponsored by the Diocese, and each parish has been asked to submit the name of one survivor to be the guest of the Diocese and represent the parish at this banquet. Our representative is Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, who is a survivor of the 1915 Genocide. He also explained that anyone who wishes to attend the banquet may do so.

Der Untzag congratulated the newly-elected members of the Parish Council, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee, and thanked Assembly Chairman Ralph Trapasso and Secretary Sonia Trapasso for serving today.

After the Benediction the Assembly adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sonia Trapasso
Assembly Secretary