

MINUTES OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION
PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON JANUARY 26, 1986

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension commenced at 1:05 pm Sunday, January 26, 1986.

Invocation was given by Der Untzag Nalbandian.

Verification of dues paying members was made by Dr. Berdj Harabedian. There were 50 eligible voting members present.

At this time, Dr. Harabedian reported the Membership Committee was reorganized during 1985 and Steve Goomrigian and Sonia Trapasso had been added to the Committee. The Committee worked very hard during the year and was successful in adding 31 new dues paying members. Total paid membership in the parish at this time is 121.

Ralph Trapasso was elected Assembly Chairman and Diana Goomrigian was elected Assembly Secretary.

Minutes of the 1985 Parish Assembly were read by the secretary and unanimously accepted.

Elections of new Parish Council Members, Auditing Committee Members and Nominating Committee Members commenced. Theresa Harabedian read the names of those qualified (paid members) to vote. There were only 7 names listed as Parish Council nominees. It was pointed out that 8 names were more in order. Nominations were opened from the floor. Connie Kasparian was nominated and accepted the nomination.

There was an inquiry about incumbent Parish Council members. It was stated that Steve Goomrigian was not eligible to run for membership because he had served 3 consecutive terms. Jack Bousian was nominated from the floor but declined the nomination.

Ballots were distributed to qualified voters by Peter Kapusuzian and Theresa Harebedian. There were 50 ballots given out; 50 being sufficient to constitute a quorum.

Completed ballots were collected for tally by Peter Kapusuzian.

Pastor's Report was delivered by Der Untzag. Der Untzag urged all parish members to become involved in church activities. He stated, "As the body needs all of its parts to work, to remain healthy, similarly the church needs all of her members to remain strong and healthy." In 1985 seventy people participated in church organizations; Der Untzag wishes to increase the number of people who were involved in the seven permanently active organizations and seven temporary committees which are formed ad hoc.

Der Untzag then listed the various religious, cultural, social, and fund-raising activities. In 1985 he performed four baptisms, three weddings, three funeral services; he made one hundred visits to homes and hospitals, and he represented the parish at meetings at the Diocese. He added that a new committee has been formed to provide transportation to church for senior citizens.

The major donations made in 1985 included one side altar, a new baptismal font, and a new altar cross; a classroom was also dedicated to the late Martha Khachadourian. 1985 also brought approximately thirty new members.

Der Untzag listed possible developments for 1986 including Bible study gatherings, a Mr. & Mrs. club, educational lectures about our culture and history, and a band that would allow youngsters to learn

Armenian folksongs and play for the entire community.

Der Untzag thanked all those who have served the church. In conclusion he stated, "Let us continue to seek God's inspiration and strength as we work together to build stronger our Armenian Christian heritage through the family of Holy Ascension Armenian Church."

Assembly Chairman Ralph Trapasso thanked Der Untzag and asked for questions from the floor. Since there were no questions, the report was accepted as read.

Parish Council Report was given by Chairman Mardy Azarian. He reported that the Council had a productive year in 1985. Activities sponsored and supported by the Council were listed. A new furnace, much more efficient and economic, has been installed. The 2 new alters and Baptismal font will be consecrated in May, 1986, with a banquet to follow the ceremony.

Mr. Azarian praised the untiring effort and dedication of former Sunday School Superintendent Theresa Harabedian who has submitted her resignation.

A new social club will be formed, and a Senior Citizens Sunday designated each month to provide transportation for those wishing to attend services but without means of transport.

\$40,000.00 has been transferred from the General Fund toward payment of our mortgage. This is a payment to reduce the principle which will in turn reduce monthly payments for the remaining mortgage.

The dedication and capabilities of Parish Council members was appreciated as were the leadership qualities of Der Untzag.

The Parish Council report by Chairman Mardy Azarian was accepted as read.

ACYOA Juniors Report was submitted by Chairperson Linda Kalfaian, and presented by member Kim Kasparian. Total membership is 13. Fund-raising activities were listed, as were church activities in which the group assisted other church organizations. The treasurer reports a current savings account balance of \$141.15 and a checking account balance of \$12.61. A check was presented to the Council in the amount of \$50.00. There were no additions or corrections and the report was accepted as read.

ACYOA Seniors Report was presented by Treasurer Debra A. Tashjian. Revenue-producing activities were listed with a resulting balance of \$351.79 in the group Savings Account. A loan of \$200.00 from the Parish Council has been repaid in full and a \$100.00 check presented to the Parish Council. The report was accepted as read.

Ladies Guild Report was presented by Eleanor Zysk for Chairperson Carmen Fuchs. Monthly activities were listed; there were 12 meetings scheduled; coffeeshours were discussed.

The treasurer's report was given by Ladies Guild Treasurer Anna Gorakian. Balance as of January 1985 was \$275.00. After fund-raising activities and Guild expenses, the net balance was \$2572.51. The account is now closed and a check for \$2300.00 was given to the Council and a \$272.51 check to the newly elected Ladies Guild Executive Committee.

A hearty round of applause was offered to the outgoing Guild Executive Committee for their outstanding contribution, both monetarily and for their unselfish efforts toward the continuing existence of our community. The report was unanimously accepted as read.

The Choir Report and Treasurer's Report were presented. Choir Director and Chairman Charles Balian spoke of the dedication of the choir members and Deacons, and thanked them for their effort of 100 percent. Peter Kapusuzian and Virginia Kalfayan were thanked especially.

Treasurer Thomas Garabedian gave the report. The balance of December 1984 was \$449.12. Total income for 1985 was \$854.38. With expenses in the amount of \$64.74, the total balance was \$1238.76. Mr. Garabedian presented the Council with a donation of \$700.00, leaving a net balance of \$538.76. The reports were accepted as read.

Sunday School Report was presented by outgoing Superintendent Theresa Harabedian. Enrollment was 19 students under the tutelage of instructors Beatrice Javian, Janice Touloukian and Joan Sukoian. Activities were mentioned, as was the coffee hour sponsored by the Sunday School. The Superintendent, who is retiring this year, thanked all the parishoners and teachers who supported the school during her office. A check was donated in the amount of \$292.00. The report was accepted as read.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Harabedian for her service to the Sunday School and our community.

Plans for the future of the Holy Ascension Church Sunday School were presented by Mr. Thomas Garabedian for his wife Dora, who was unable to attend. A pass book account has been opened with a check issued for \$292.31, the balance from previous school funds. Expenditures for books and classroom equipment were mentioned, as were current educational objectives.

Best wishes were extended to the new Sunday School Coordinator, Dora Garabedian.

The Armenian School Report was given by instructor Marie Yapoujian. She thanked the teachers who participated in the program. The group sponsored the concert by the Yerevan Chorus and the coffee hour which followed. She reiterated a promise to teach the parishoners and their families our beautiful language and culture which will certainly enrich their lives. Ms. Yapoujian presented the council with a \$700.00 check. The report was unanimously accepted.

The Cultural Committee Report was presented by Chairman Ralph Trapasso. Various activities sponsored by the committee were listed and a check for \$480.24 was presented to the Council. The report was accepted as read.

Bazaar Committee financial report was distributed and time allowed for perusal. Congratulations were extended to the committee and Chairman Ralph Trapasso for the net profit of \$15,332.75 by Parish Council President Mardy Azarian. The motion to accept the report was carried unanimously.

Diocesan Delegate's Report was offered by Delegate Dr. Berdj Harabedian. He gave a brief summary of the 83d Annual Assembly and the major issues discussed. The next Assembly will convene in Racine, Wisconsin in 1986. The report was accepted as read after discussion of the youth ministry program which may be implemented on a trial basis. It is a quest to locate eligible youth for the church ministry. Dr. Harabedian reported that more details will be available soon.

The Building Committee Report was given by Archie Misakian for Treasurer Richard Khachian who was absent. The total cash in banks is \$51,354.12 and the principle balance due on the mortgage as of 12/31/85 is \$156,993.38. Dr. Harabedian questioned the monthly payment. Mardy Azarian replied that the amount of the payment is \$1700.00. Anna Gorakian questioned the amount of principle due on the mortgage. The reply reiterated the \$40,000.00 payment made toward the principle by the Parish Council. The report was accepted as read.

The Auditing Committee Report was presented by Committee member Jack Bousian. It is their conclusion that the financial records of the church are in excellent order. The report was accepted and carried.

At this time, voting results were presented by Nominating Committee member Peter Kapusuzian. The following were elected:

<u>Parish Council</u>	<u>Auditing Committee</u>	<u>Nominating Committee</u>
Thomas Dabakian	Stephen Goomrigian	Theresa Harabedian
Thomas Garabedian	Dr. Berdj Harabedian	Peter Kapusuzian
Richard Kalfaian	Lionel Ketchian	Sonia Trapasso
Archie Misakian		
Fraij Yapoujian, Alternate		

All of the nominees were thanked by Mr. Kapusuzian. The report was carried and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Parish Council Treasurer Steve Goomrigian. Copies of the 1985 report and proposed budget for 1986 were distributed to the Assembly, and were reviewed by Mr. Goomrigian. A discussion followed the presentation: 1) Theresa Harabedian wanted the anticipated from the 1985 budget. The treasurer offered the amount of \$66,800.00. 2) Dr. Harabedian questioned the term "memorial." The term covers alters and Baptisan Fonts. Dr. Harabedian commended the Parish Council for the substantial donation towards the payment of principle on mortgage for the church. Mr. Goomrigian replied that the Council plans more fund-raising activities in the future. Dr. Harabedian's reply was that we must have other sources of revenue other than full dependence on the Parish Council. Steve concurred, and stated that the Council was working on this problem. 3) Peter Kapusuzian questioned the amount of money donated to the Boiler Fund. Mr. Azarian replied that Parish members cannot be forced to donate to the fund to meet the obligation. Everyone has been contacted. Mr. Kapasuzian suggested appointment of a committee to review the problem. Mr. Trapasso reminded the Assembly that the attempt to obtain money for the fund has not been abandoned.

Steve Goomrigian thanked Der Untzag and Dr. Harabedian for their help. He specifically requested that donations to the church be in the form of checks, and the purpose of the donation be represented on the check. The report was accepted as presented.

New Business matters were discussed as follows:

Margaret Azarian, 1986 Chairperson of the Ladies Guild presented the new Executive Board. The Calendar of Events was announced and the wish for more participation by general membership was voiced. Sponsors are needed for the coffee hours. Rose Kadikian should be contacted by potential sponsors.

Theresa Harabedian offered three proposals for the betterment of our church: 1) Increase in annual dues (\$25.00 is not high); 2) Increase in rental of church facilities; 3) Members of the Auditing and Nominating

Committees serve for 3 years.

In reply: 1) Some dues for 1986 have already been collected. The number of active members is of the utmost importance. The Membership Committee will endeavor to increase membership rolls. Ralph Trapasso suggested increasing dues in 1987. Connie Kasparian inquired as to the amount of dues requested by the Diocese. Der Untzag related how the parishes are assessed:

60% - Membership
 5% - Clergy
 25% - Gross PCP*
 5% - Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
 5% - Delegates.

The Assembly Chairman asked for a motion to increase annual dues. There was no response.

2) Mrs. Harabedian stated that our fees for rental of church facilities were quite low. Mardy Azarian offered that the rental to the Nursery School has been increased by \$65.00 per month. Sonia Trapasso stated that the Nursery School seems to "take over" the entire facility. Der Untzag has spoken to the school personnel and has concluded that we should look at the situation unemotionally. The director of the Nursery will try to keep the encroachment under control. Fraij Yapoujian stated that we cannot increase the rent of the school and then limit their space. George Maljanian thought that the solution to the problem should be left up to the Parish Council. General discussion ensued on the general contract of the Nursery School.

Mrs. Harabedian suggested sponsoring Bingo games as a revenue-raising event. The response by Mardy Azarian was that the Parish Council has decided against this type of activity because parishes just beginning the games in their churches find it unprofitable. Mr. Trapasso concurred and added that a tremendous amount of manpower and dollars are needed to be successful. Mr. Azarian stated that our rug sales are a better revenue producing activity.

3) In response to the suggestion that a 3 year term be instituted for Nominating and Auditing Committee members, the Assembly was reminded that the By-Laws dictate that members serve one year.

Other new business continued with a statement by Connie Kasparian that workers on the Pre-Bazaar dinners are exhausted from preparation, and that the sponsors of those dinners might, instead, donate the money for food for the actual Bazaar instead of holding the Pre-Bazaar dinners. Mardy Azarian replied that the Parish Council has decided to reduce the number of Pre-Bazaar dinners from 3 to 2. He also suggested that all parish members participate and not leave this job to a few. Archie Misakian added that, like the contributions to the Boiler Fund, the same people always donate to the Pre-Bazaar dinners. Mrs. Harabedian stated that Mrs. Kasparian's suggestion had been tried at the Barnum Avenue church and was found to be less profitable than the present because there seems to be a bigger lateral gain, that is to say that sponsors attend with their friends as well as families, which brings more people to the church.

Der Untzag concurred with Mrs. Harabedian in that these dinners are not necessarily to make a profit, but to bring people together.

In reference to the Nursery School problem, he reminded the Assembly that criticisms should not go directly to Nursery School personnel, but

communication should be made through Der Untzag or Parish Council members.

Der Untzag reminded the Assembly that the Primate will be visiting our parish May 18th. A donor is needed for the 2d side alter. He also ammended some of the activities on the Calendar of Events.

Der Untzag concluded the meeting with c ongratulations to the newly elected Parish Council members and thanked all who participated in this meeting.

After the Benediction, the Assembly adjourned at 4:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Goomrigian

Diana Goomrigian
Assembly Secretary

