

MINUTES OF THE 1995 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The 1994 Parish Assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Church Hall on February 5, 1995. The meeting was opened at 12:45 p.m. with an invocation led by Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian.

Richard Nagarian, chairman of the Parish Council, called the meeting to order. 1994 Parish Assembly secretary, Sharyn N. D'Urso, recorded the opening business. Richard Nagarian reported that there were One Hundred Fourteen parishioners who had paid their dues.

By roll call, Margaret Azarian verified that thirty dues-paid members were present. According to the by-laws, a quorum of one third of the membership was not present to proceed under the by-laws, Article Seventeen, First Paragraph. However business could continue under Article Seventeen, Second Paragraph. In order to proceed under this provision of the by-laws, each decision made during the assembly had to be reached by two thirds majority vote. Given the members present, the affirmative vote of twenty (20) parishioners was required in order to proceed with the meeting.

Discussion was heard regarding the lack of a quorum, following which Fr. Nalbandian reviewed the terms of Article Seventeen for greater illumination and clarification with the membership. Connie Kasparian made a motion to proceed without a quorum, according to Article Seventeen, Paragraph Two. Grace DeYoung and Nazareth Azarian seconded the motion. Twenty-two members, a majority greater than two thirds of the voting members present, elected to proceed with the Parish Assembly. By unanimous vote, Mark Gavoor was elected as chairman for the 1995 Parish Assembly and Sharyn N. D'Urso was elected as secretary.

The Minutes of the 1994 Parish Assembly which had been earlier distributed for review to the voting membership were accepted without corrections or additions. Connie Kasparian made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Matthew Tokatlian, seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Fr. Nalbandian gave a special thanks to Melanie Donoian, Harry Tashjian and Elenor Zysk for their commitment and generous time devoted to fulfilling their roles as members of the Nominating Committee.

Proceeding with the meeting, the Nominating Committee presented a ballot for voting which was reviewed before the Assembly. A sample ballot is appended hereto as, Appendix I.

The first slate of nominations on the ballot was for the office of Parish Council. There were ten names of parish members represented on the ballot for this office. The name of Setrak Javian was deleted from the slate because of a technicality.

A Request for additional nominations from the floor did not result in additional candidates for office. Connie Kasparian made a motion to accept the ballot as it was presented and corrected. Stanley Zysk seconded the motion. The motion carried by two-thirds majority.

Before voting for Parish Council, Richard Najarian described the responsibilities of this office to the Assembly. The obligations were summarized as follows: attend monthly business meetings, assist at Sunday Services, assist Fr. Nalbandian with family visitations, support and attend other church functions.

All preliminary matters dispensed with, Margaret Azarian read the names of dues paid members. Melanie Donoian and Elenor Zysk distributed the ballots accordingly.

Assembly Chairman, Mark Gavoor, reminded parishioners that each decision had to be reached by a minimum of twenty votes in order to satisfy the more stringent requirement of the By-laws for two-thirds majority rule, in the absence of a quorum at this Assembly. They were cautioned that voting for more than four members would invalidate the ballot as to the election of Parish Council members. Likewise, members were instructed to vote for only three of the six candidates for offices of the Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

Voting was carried out in accord with the by-laws, and upon collecting the ballots, the Nominating Committee retired to tally the votes. The meeting continued with Fr. Untzag Nalbandian addressing the parish Assembly.

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nalbandian complimented those present and extended his thanks to all members of the parish who support the work of the church, including bringing God closer to our lives as we come to worship together as Armenians.

Der Hyre commented about his work throughout the year as pastor, highlighting his pastoral duties: In 1994, he celebrated forty-nine Badaraks, visited the sick, attended most meetings of church organizations, gave counselling and spiritual guidance, made family visitations, gave special support to the youth and attended to a multitude of administrative tasks.

Also in 1994, Fr. Untzag performed over four baptisms, two weddings and five funerals in our church. During the year, he attended many meetings outside of the parish including Diocesan Council meetings in New York City and the annual ACYOA's assembly at the Diocese in New York.

Fr. Nalbandian highlighted the work of parishioners in church, the community, the and the Diocese. A list of these activities is appended hereto as Appendix II

In 1994 Pledge Committee Members: Richard Najarian, Sara Der Megerdichian and Nicky Taraian, helped to raise over \$20,000.00 in pledges. This amount represented the highest amount of annual donations pledged since Fr. Untzag Nalbandian became parish priest.

Fr. Nalbandian announced the 1995 Pledge Committee members: Sara Der Megerdichian, Nicky Taraian, and Elsie Chaghatzbanian. The goal for this Committee is to encourage each family to pledge a minimum of \$300.00 annually, so that the church can become financially solvent.

Regarding the financial outlook for 1995, Fr. Nalbandian forecast no major fund raising for the year outside of pledging. He stated that there are no known major renovations anticipated to either buildings or grounds. His primary goal is to devote more time and attention to the spiritual growth of parishioners.

Regarding upcoming events, Der Hyre reminded the Assembly that The Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Fr. Oshagian Minassian conducting, will perform at our church on April 30, 1995; there will be a commemorative service marking the 80th Anniversary of the Genocide; and the Primate's visit and the annual banquet will be held at Leidle's Restaurant. Senator Joseph Lieberman has been invited as guest speaker, although he has not confirmed.

Der Hyre extended an invitation for everyone in the parish to participate in hosting and supporting the athletes who will arrive from Armenia to compete in the Special Winter Olympics. The Games will be held July 1st-9th in Connecticut.

In continuing concern and outreach for the Motherland, Der Hyre reaffirmed this parish's continuing commitment to support the five families we have adopted in Armenia.

Fr. Nalbandian concluded his address to the Parish Assembly summarizing his hopes as pastor for 1995: developing Bible Study groups and educating for special events; inaugurating Peace and Rest Services during Lent; training for altar servers; expanding the choir; stimulating the development of the church school; continuing encouragement and support of the youth of the church.

Der Hyre recognized two outgoing members of Parish Council. Carmen Fuchs was recognized for two years of service to the church as a council member. Chairman Richard Najarian was honored for six years of "unselfish and true Christian" service. He was presented with the newly published Armenian Church Edition of the English Bible.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Chairman Richard Najarian, gave the report for Parish Council. Many goals established by the Parish Council were reached during 1994. Five orphaned families were adopted by the parish,

the Khachkar Monument was erected and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted by the church.

At a Special Assembly, parishioners voted to sell a portion of the rear lot. The Parish Council is overseeing matters preliminary to the sale. Also, regarding buildings and grounds, renovations were made to the Parish House and new tenants have leased the property.

Parish Council supported the goal for greater outreach out to the young people in the parish. Parishioners joined together to surprise Der Hyre with a party for his Fortieth Birthday.

Mr. Najarian noted that pledges increased almost twenty-five percent from the 1993 pledges. He thanked the pledge committee members for their fundraising efforts and the generosity of parishioners.

This was Chairman Richard Najarian's sixth and, therefore, his last year on Parish Council. He thanked Fr. Nalbandian, Parish Council members and all parishioners for making his six years on the Council stimulating and personally fulfilling.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Darwin Jamgochian gave the Treasurer's Report and submitted the proposed budget for 1995. A suggestion was made for over/under columns and subtotals. This accounting procedure had been mentioned at earlier assemblies, comments from the floor favored adopting this procedure for the Treasure's Report. Nazareth Nazarian made a motion to accept the report upon approval by the Auditing Committee. Richard Najarian seconded the motion which carried by unanimous voice vote.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Harry Tashjian reported for the Nominating Committee regarding the voting results. On the first ballot, Gary Donoian and Sharyn D'Urso were elected to the Parish Council and Mark Gavoor was elected to the nominating committee. These candidates were elected by at least two thirds of the voting members.

Discussion followed the announcement of these results. Richard Kalfaian moved that the next two candidates with the highest votes on this first ballot be elected to Parish Council. This suggestion was outside of the special requirement for voting in the absence of a quorum. Additional discussion was heard as to whether or not to proceed; members decided to continue with the meeting.

Parishioners voted for a second time to fill the open positions. While the Nominating Committee tallied the votes for this second ballot, other reports were heard.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

Matthew Tokatlian was the only person present at the assembly from the Auditing Committee. Richard Kalfaian reviewed the Auditing report with Mr. Tokatlian. A recommendation was made for a comparative column to be added to the Treasurer's Report. This was supported by auditor, Mr. Tokatlian.

NEW BUSINESS

Connie Kasparian suggested a more detailed bookkeeping system.

Nazareth Azarian suggested promoting the Eightieth Anniversary of the Genocide. Fr. Nalbandian commented that at the Diocesan level, a committee has been organized to place a Khachkar on the pillars in front of St. Vartan's Cathedral in New York with an inscription of the names of Martyrs.

Additional discussion of new business was suspended when the Nominating Committee Members returned with the results of the second ballot.

SECOND REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Harry Tashjian, reporting for the Nominating Committee, stated Kim Kasparian had been elected by two thirds majority to Parish Council. The second ballot did not produce results to fill any other positions. A third ballot was necessary. There were twenty-eight voting parishioners in attendance for the third ballot. It was announced that the successful candidate would have to obtain at least nineteen votes, representing a two thirds majority.

CONTINUATION OF NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the 80th Anniversary of the Genocide continued without a vote for a particular commemorative celebration other than what is already being planned.

ACYOA JUNIORS PRESENTATION

Maral Nalbandian, chair for the ACYOA, JRS. was joined by group members, Aram Gavoor and Hovig Nalbandian for a special presentation. The Juniors have pledged One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the Khachkar Project. They gave a donation of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) toward the group pledge.

The ACYOA JRS gave a special thanks to John McCann who was their driver for Christmas Carolling, their annual fundraiser.

CONTINUING REPORT OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Harry Tashjian, reported that Garo Garabedian was elected for the Nominating Committee on the third Ballot. Other positions were not filled. Discussion followed about the difficulty for any candidate to reach a two thirds majority given the number of candidates on the ballot.

At this point, several members withdrew their names from the ballot: Virginia Kalfaian and Harry Tashjian withdrew their candidacy for Parish Council, Vartan Tarpinian withdrew as a candidate for Nominating Committee and Stanley Zysk withdrew as a candidate for the Auditing Committee.

The ballot was amended to reflect these changes: The twenty-five remaining parishioners voted for a fourth time. Seventeen votes were needed for a two-thirds majority.

The Nominating Committee shortly returned with the news that the Fourth Ballot did not result in a two thirds vote of any candidate for office. Committee members recommended a change in the voting procedure. Discussion followed.

Connie Kasparian suggested and Margaret Azarian supported the idea of revising the ballot to expedite the voting. The suggestion was that only the two candidates with the highest number of votes from the last ballot for each office remain on the ballot for a final vote.

Harry Tashjian made a motion to revise the ballot in accord with the suggestion. Garo Garabedian seconded the motion. The motion carried by two-thirds majority.

The ballot was revised accordingly. Candidates remaining on the ballot for Parish Council, were Harry Magazian and Richard Kalfaian. For Nominating Committee, the candidates were Mardy Azarian and Marie Yapoujian. The candidates for Auditing Committee were Ralph Trapasso and Archie Misakian.

A Fifth Ballot by the Assembly did not result in the election of any candidate for office. Harry Tashjian reported that not one candidate achieved the necessary two thirds vote. There was general comment regarding the difficulty for any candidate to obtain the necessary votes--seventeen votes for this ballot with twenty-five parishioners remaining in attendance at the Assembly.

Mr. Tashjian made a motion that the remaining vacancies be filled by the candidates having a plurality. The person achieving the greatest number of votes would be elected to the office and

the second person on the ballot for that particular office would be the alternate. Garo Garabedian seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

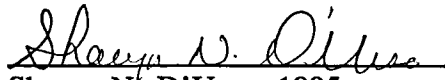
This revision to the voting procedure resulted in the election finals. For Parish Council: Richard Kalfaian with Harry Magazian as alternate; for Nominating Committee: Marie Yapoujian and alternate, Mardy Azarian; and for Auditing Committee: Archie Misakian and Ralph Trapasso as the alternate.

Connie Kasparian was elected as Diocesan Delegate and Harry Tashjian is the alternate.

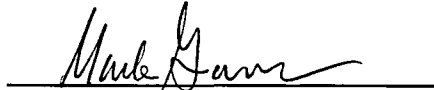
CONCLUSION OF MEETING AND BENEDICTION

Connie Kasparian made a motion to close the meeting. Stanley Zysk seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian gave the Benediction. The 1995 Parish Assembly was closed at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharyn N. D'Urso, 1995
Parish Assembly Secretary



Mark Gavor
1995 Parish Assembly Chairman



Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian