

1999 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension held its Annual Parish Assembly on Sunday January 31, 1999. The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian gave the Benediction. Mark Gavoor, Chairman of the 1998 Parish Assembly, opened the business meeting.

The first order of business was to verify a voting quorum. A roll call of dues paid members was read to verify voting members present. Out of 108 dues paid members, 43 were present representing a legal quorum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE DAY

Two nominations for Chairman of the Day came from the floor:

- 1- Mark Gavoor, nominated by Richard Najarian, and seconded.
- 2- Mardy Azarian, nominated by Maureen Najarian and seconded.

Sarkis Kaolian motioned to close the nominations. Seconded. A vote followed resulting in the election of Mark Gavoor as Chairman of the Day.

Two nominations for Secretary of the Day came from the floor:

- 1- Margaret Azarian, nominated by Richard Najarian, seconded.
- 2- Joanne Najarian, nominated by Maureen Najarian, seconded.

Sarkis Kaolian motioned to closed the nominations. Seconded. A vote followed resulting in Margaret Azarian being elected as Secretary of the Day.

1998 MINUTES

Archie Misakian motioned that the minutes need not be read since they were given to members at least one week prior to the assembly. The motion was seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

The Chairman asked the assembly if there were any questions regarding the 1998 minutes. There were none. Matthew Tokatlian motioned to accept the 1998 minutes as presented, Joanne Najarian seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Chairman, Mark Gavoor requested the assembly agree to hear Fr. Untzag's annual report ahead of the elections as presented on the day's agenda. It was unanimously approved.

Fr. Untzag presented the first part of his report in Armenian. The Armenian text basically states what is covered in the English version. Der Hyre gives glory to the Omnipotent who yearly gives passport to all the inexperienced and sees that He helps in the religious, cultural, educational and social undertakings. Der Hyre points out that he wishes to make it known that he appreciates and thanks all who strongly stood firm, supported and helped their Holy Apostolic church.

Also, more than 300 Armenian families live in the community and he is happy that many of them are helpful to Holy Ascension in many areas, namely, serving religiously, nationally and culturally thus witnessing towards new people in the community.

In English, Fr. Untzag welcomed the parish community in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and of our Holy Apostolic and centuries old Armenian Church to the 68th Annual Parish Assembly.

- Fr. Untzag covered 1998 thoroughly in all that he and the community accomplished together.
- a. 1999 begins his 16th year at Holy Ascension
 - b. The mission of our Holy Church remains the same. To bring her members closer to God, to the teachings of the Holy Bible and Church and to one another. And the added responsibility of the Armenian Church to bring its people closer to their cultural heritage and ethnic roots.
 - c. Der Hyre attended all local, regional and clergy and Diocesan meeting.
 - d. Besides lecturing and preaching at Holy Ascension, he did so at the Diocese, St. Nersess, St. Leon's in Fairlawn, N.J., State Capitol in Hartford, etc.
 - e. He performed six baptisms, two weddings and two funerals. And when invited attended numerous parties and events.
 - f. The "Ani" newsletter was published every two months (minus summer months) and he encouraged articles both in Armenian and English.
 - g. Most of his administrative work was done two days a week in the church office with his secretary.
 - h. He thanked Margaret Azarian for being the church secretary for 9 years. She retired in April, 1998. Heather Tarpinian replaced her. And due to changes in Heather's personal life, a new part time secretary will take her place in September namely Linda McGann. Linda will work two days a week. Meanwhile, February through May Heather will work on Saturdays. Der Hyre expressed his appreciation to Heather and said he was happy to have her as his secretary.
 - i. In addition to all the above, Der Hyre covered added activities held at our church including guest speakers, Lenten speakers, continuation of the Needy Fund which covered Armenia and other local and international areas.
 - j. Names were mentioned denoting fifteen memorial and special donations. The 1998 pledge goal of \$50,000.00 fell short by \$8,000.00. \$42,000 was pledged and paid by 120 families. He urged the community to help him, the Parish Council and the Pledge Committee educate the rest of the community about the importance of the pledge system.
 - k. The adult Armenian language and Bible study classes continued. The Sunday and Armenian Schools, choir, deacons, sub-deacon, organist, conductor and altar boys all served weekly. Der Hyre expressed that one of the great points of light in his ministry are visits with the ACYOA members to the elderly and nursing homes a night before American Christmas Eve.

Der Hyre brought the parish up to date about the parking lot expansion and the future pavement project. So far, \$60,000 is pledged by 60 families but more is needed. The Parish Council is looking for \$25,000 more from a donor or donors. The parking lot will be named after the donor(s). The final cost may be close to \$100,000.00 but he will know more after his meeting with the engineer.

Speaking as a shepherd to his flock, Der Hyre admonished the assembly to be spiritually mature in exchanging ideas without hurting one another. That "when all is said and done" we must stand together in front of our Holy Altar to pray and get ready to face future challenges which are many.

Fr. Untzag concluded by thanking all for their continued support and service he thanked the nine Parish Council members: Maureen Najarian, Chairman; Richard Najarian, Vice Chairman; Darwin Jamgochian, Treasurer; Richard Kalfaian, Secretary; Sarkis Kalfayan, Assistant Treasurer; Sarkis Kaolian, Scott Paklaian, Heather Tarpinian and Vartan Tarpinian. He closed with a blessing,

“Heavenly King, preserve thy church unshaken and keep the worshipers of thy name in Peace.”

ELECTIONS:

Nominating committee member, Nicky Taraian, explained the slate for the different offices to be filled. She read the roll and the ballots were distributed to the members present. Nominations from the floor were opened. Sonia Trapasso nominated Mardy Azarian for Diocesan Delegate. Mardy’s name was added to the slate. Heather Tarpinian motioned to close the nominations from the floor. Seconded by Sarkis Kalfayan. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

After the second roll call was read and ballots were collected, the committee retired to count the ballots and return with results.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Maureen Najarian, Parish Council Chairman, thanked this year’s Parish Council members for their dedication. In particular she thanked Der Hyre for his dedication and advice in leading the Council and the Church.

Due to the year’s accomplishments detailed in Der Hyre’s report, she was pleased to add that in 1998 the Gospel message was shared with our congregation in several ways namely through summer camp, Sunday School, Bible Study and Lenten lectures as well as the Sunday sermons by Der Hyre.

Concerning the financial condition of the church, she was happy to report that Holy Ascension was in a “satisfactory financial position.”

Maureen stressed the importance of Christian fellowship and encouragement to each other. She quoted bible scripture from Hebrews and Matthew stressing this point and concluded with a recent phrase she heard on a radio program, “We are not saved just to get to heaven– we are saved so we can take others to heaven with us.”

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Nazareth Azarian, Auditing Committee member, read a letter submitted by the committee members stating they all agreed that the Church Treasurer, Darwin Jamgochian, properly recorded all transactions and that the report accurately reflects the 1997 financial transactions of the church. Leo Malkasian motioned to accept the Auditing Committee report as submitted. Joanne Najarian seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

“SISTER PARISH PROGRAM.” APPROVAL OF \$3,000.00 A YEAR FOR THIS PROJECT

Questions from the floor were addressed to Der Hyre and the Parish Council Chairman regarding this issue. A discussion took place covering logistical pros and cons. Joanne Najarian motioned “To Adopt a sister parish in Armenia and send funds collected on the five feast days and other events designated for that purpose and not commit to a specific dollar amount.” Seconded by Grace De Young. Voting followed and the motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION RESULTS

PARISH COUNCIL VOTES

Sarkis Kalfayan	23
Karl Quinn	17
Elisa Griego Alt.	16
Richard Kalfaian Alt.	16
Pearl Khachadourian Alt.	16

NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOTES

Linda McGann	31
Nicky Taraian	27
Elisa Griego	23
Sara Der Megerdichian	23
(Ex-officio President of the Assembly, Fr. Untzag Nalbandian broke the tie.)	
Sara Der Megerdichian is the Alternate	
Roxy Terzian	6

AUDITING COMMITTEE VOTES

Nazareth Azarian	23
Archie Misakian, Alt.	21

DIOCESAN DELEGATE

Mardy Azarian	26
Connie Kasparian, Alt.	12
Heather Tarpinian	2

TREASURER'S REPORT AND 1999 BUDGET

Darwin Jamgochian, Church Treasurer, submitted a proposed budget for 1999. General budget discussion followed covering different proposed items as well as explanations of others. Archie Misakian motioned to accept the 1999 budget with the stipulated areas corrected. Seconded by Sarkis Kaolian. Vote passed unanimously in favor of the proposed 1999 budget.

ACYOA, Jrs. Fred Dikranian, Chairman of the ACOYA Jrs. handed a check in the amount of \$175.00 to the church. This donation represented proceeds from their annual Christmas Caroling outing. They requested that the money be designated for the parking lot project.

WOMEN'S GUILD Women's Guild Chairperson, Mary Ann Dikranian, presented the church with a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 designated for the parking lot project. She also thanked all who helped the guild during the year.

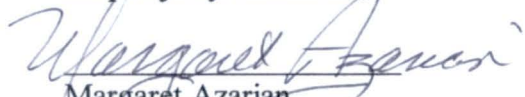
NEW BUSINESS


Nazareth Azarian requested an update on the church janitorial service and the parish house tenant. Der Hyre responded that the Parish Council is working on the janitorial issue since the cleaning has been unsatisfactory. A church member, Vartan Tarpinian, may take over these duties in the near future. If so, the question of the parish house rental will be reviewed since the present tenant provides the necessary janitorial service in lieu of reduced rent. Other issues are involved as well and when the particulars are in place, the parish will be notified.

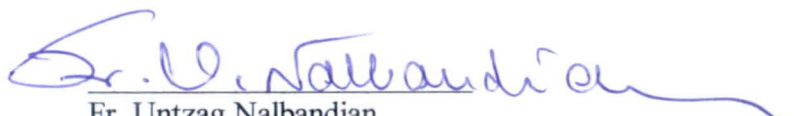
Heather Tarpinian motioned to close the meeting. Sarkis Kalfaian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Fr. Untzag then closed the meeting with a prayer at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Azarian
1999 Parish Assembly Secretary


Mark Gavoor
1999 Parish Assembly Chairman


Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor