

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Richmond, Virginia

Parish Assembly Minutes

The Parish Assembly took place on Sunday, January 21, 1968 in the social hall of St. James Armenian Church. The meeting began at 1:15 PM with an opening prayer by Der Hayr Arsen Barsamian followed by a roll call by Gerry Sharigian. There were 58 voting members present out of a 92 membership.

Dr. Jack Garian was nominated as chairman for the day and Roxie Kricorian was nominated as Secretary for the day.

The following Parish Council members were present:

George Vranian
John Ashjian
Charles Dedeian
Andy Garabedian
Gerry Sharigian
Nebe Boyajian
John Baronian - Resigned to be Sunday School Supt.

The minutes for the 1967 Parish Assembly was read by Roxie Kricorian and they were approved as read.

Gerry Sharigian clarified voting rights by explaining that only members who had paid their 1967 pledges (dues) could vote.

John Ashjian gave the Financial report (attached) and Mr. Harry Darhanian made a motion to approve the report as read and it was seconded by Gerry Sharigian.

The budget for 1968 (attached) was read and discussed. A motion to accept the 1968 budget was made by Gerry Sharigian and seconded by Nebe Boyajian and accepted by the assembly.

The floor was then opened for Parish Council election. The slate (attached) presented by the nominating committee was accepted and there was no other nominations from the floor. The Chairman for the day then explained that the nominating committee approached Mr. Harry Darhanian to be a candidate for Parish Council but he said he would rather give others a chance to serve but would serve willingly if necessary. A standing ovation was given to Mr. Darhanian for his 50 years of service to his community. (Mr. Darhanian was not on slate).

It was also brought to the attention that Robert Harian had accepted to run for parish council under great urging from the nominating committee with the understanding that he would not have the proper time to devote to such duties.

Dr. Garian then explained that at the preliminary meeting in December the members of Parish Council was increased from seven to nine due to the increased duties of the council. This increase had been accepted by those present at the meeting in December. This increase made it necessary to nominate six new members this year and three next year. This increase should allow inexperienced people to be added each year.

Der Arsen then explained in order to make elections more balanced for the future we should elect six new members to Parish Council this year but the sixth newly elected member would serve a one year term and next year we will elect four rather than three members. This suggestion was adapted and accepted by the Assembly.

Dr. Garian explained that the out-going parish council members were automatically the new Auditing Committee, and this was discussed and accepted at the December preliminary meeting. This meant that the following outgoing parish council members are the Auditing Committee for 1968.

Andy Garabedian
Gerry Sharigian
John Ashjian

The ballots were collected by roll call and the following members were elected Parish Council members.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Sam Baronian | 4. William Darhanian |
| 2. Peter Greene | 5. Vahe Garabedian |
| 3. Gilbert Eretzian | 6. John Mason |

John Mason being the sixth, according to number of votes received, is to serve a one year term as previously discussed in the meeting.

Mr. Charles Tatlian, Sargavak for our church, was recognized by the chair, and he thanked the church and community for the payments he had received the past year for his services as Sargavak (decan), but he would like to volunteer his services in the future and would refuse further payments. This announcement was received with gratitude and applause by the community.

Der Arsen Barsamian gave the Pastors Report. (attached). He also took this opportunity to thank the community, its various organizations, Der Hayr Manoukian and Yeretsgeen Manoukian for their help and co-operation in the past year. The highlight of the pastors report was the new addition of the Sevan newsletter, local newspaper and TV publicity for our church, and the training of three boys to be Sargavaks. Der Hayr also said that since we did not have a delegate that could attend the Diocesan Assembly last year, Mr. David Attamian of Washington D.C. (a member of our church also) consented to represent our church at the Assembly. But there was no report available to read at this meeting as it was not possible to reach Mr. Attamian to receive the report in time for this meeting.

Ruth Sharigian gave the Secretary's and Treasurer's report on behalf of the Ladies Aid (attached).

Dianne Greene gave the Sr. ACYOA report, and Michael Vranian gave the Jr. ACYOA report. It was quite obvious that the Jr. ACYOA had been extremely active in the past year and had made a mark in their community from the applause they received.

John Baronian gave the Sunday School report
Yeretsgeen ^{Member} gave the Choir report.

Donations to the church were made by the following organizations.

Ladies Aid	\$1200.00
Choir	100.00
Total	<u>\$1300.00</u>

Dr. Garian took this opportunity to thank the outgoing members of Parish Council for their years of service.

Gerry Sharigian gave the Parish Council report (attached). It was interesting to note the pledged for the past year were as follows:

2	- \$4.00	per week
6	= 3.00	"
7	- 2.00	"
5	- 1.50	"
31	- 1.00	"
26	- Less than \$1.00	"

The chairman of the day explained that the Discean dues would be billed and collected separately from the yearly pledges. In other words each member would have to pay an extra \$10.00 for Discean dues and they will be billed separately. This was discussed previously at the December Preliminary meeting and accepted. In the past the parish council had been paying the Discean dues but a special billing other than the pledge system had not been made. This new system would help our financial situation for the coming year.

Mrs. Margaret Kousting ^{slaw} suggested we invest some money for income purpose to help offset our financial burdens. The Chairman said this was a good suggestion but we were not able at this time to go into such a venture but would be considered as a future project.

Der Arsen expressed an urgent need for a cultural hall and we should consider this seriously for the near future. It is a source of rental income ~~also~~ ^{also} as it would save us money since we could hold our dances and other social functions in the new hall and this would eliminate our paying rent elsewhere.

Jack Garian said all Armenians living in the city and surrounding areas should be approached for a donation to the Armenian Church whether they are members or not. He felt this would bring in some additional financial help.

Gerry Sharigian explained that the Anniversary Booklet and church directory will be ready in approximately two weeks.

Jack Garian congratulated and thanked the community and the various organizations for their co-operation and asked for their support for the coming year.

Pete Greene mentioned the additional \$4,000.00 needed to cover the 1968 budget, and where this money would be obtained. Dr. Vranian suggested that the large portion of this money should be gotten from an increase in the pledge system. The Chairman asked for other suggestions but there were no other suggestions from the floor and the Chairman left it up to the Parish Council to iron this problem out.

There was no other new business and Gerry Sharigian made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Margaret Koustigian. The meeting was closed at 3:10 PM with a prayer by Der Arsen Barsamian.

Respectfully submitted

rk

Miss Roxie Kricorian
Secretary for the Day

Attached:

- Copy of ballot
- Copy of Financial Report (1967)
- Copy of 1968 Budget
- Mailing for assembly meeting and agenda.

Reports

- Pastoral Report - 1967
- Parish Council
- Sunday School
- Sr. ACYOA
- Jr. ACYOA
- Choir

*P.S. Der. Arsen expressed special thanks to
Gharbis Alexanian for painting the Church Hall.
The Community expressed their appreciation with
applaud*

Dr. Jack Vranian

Chairman-for-the-day
Dr. Jack Vranian

Rev. Arsen Barsamian

President.
Rev. Arsen Barsamian