

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 25, 1976

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The General Membership Meeting of the St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Va. was called to order by the Parish Council secretary, Jack Tootelian.

Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer.

Nominations were opened for chairman and secretary for the day. Nebe Boyajian and Ann Goff were elected respectively.

The roll call was taken by Ann Goff and 41 members were present. The minutes of the 1975 Parish Assembly were read by the secretary and two corrections were made: dues were raised to a minimum of 50.00 and not many but a few members felt no benefits were being derived from the Diocese. The report was then accepted as corrected.

Der Hayr read his Pastoral Report in which he gave a resume' of the activities of the previous year.

Nebe Boyajian called upon the following for their annual reports:

Ladies Aid - Nectar Kantarjian, secretary gave a report on the various activities and Mary Kricorian gave a financial report and said a check for 500.00 would be presented to the parish council. Mrs. Shnorig Soghoian said the group will not disband and urged the younger generation to help. She also suggested we all buy new chairs for the church for the 20th birthday celebration.

ACYOA - Chairman Susan Minasian gave the group's report.

Choir - no report

Sunday School - Superintendent Roxie Kricorian reported 33 children registered for Sunday School. She also stressed the need for audio-visual aids. Donna Soghoian donated a record player to the group.

Armenian School - Bedros Bandazian gave a report on the newly organized Armenian School. They have 44 children registered and a staff of teachers. He said although a 20.00 registration fee is required it need not act as a deterrent as the fee could be paid in installments. He also stressed the need for visual and audio aids.

The nominating committee then presented their slate for the Parish Council for the coming year. The nominees were: Isabelle Vranian, Vigen Guroian, Joe Lachowski and John Ashjian. Nominations from the floor included Roxie Kricorian and Alice Darhanian. Jerry Sharigian made a motion nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and passed.

Elected to the Parish Council were: Isabelle Vranian, Vigen Guroian, Roxie Kricorian and Alice Darhanian. They are to replace outgoing council members Pete Greene, Moses Tashjian, Vihay Garabedian and Ann Garian.

Bedros Bandazian, treasurer gave the financial report for 1975 and the budget for 1976. Before the budget could be accepted, Jerry Sharigian read a letter from the Diocese stating our Diocesan dues might be increased to 3676.00 subject to approval by the Diocesan Assembly. Kachig Dedeian stated it was too great a burden for a parish this size and we do have expenses other than Diocesan dues. Jack Tootelian added we should ask for a complete audit from the Diocese and just how did they arrive at this figure. Jerry Sharigian made a motion that our delegates vote against the proposed Diocesan budget regarding our assessment. The motion was seconded and passed. Jack Tootelian explained the stewardship program and how it would aid us in raising money for the Diocesan dues. He also stated he and Der Hayr are planning to make a personal appeal to all the local Armenians regarding stewardship. Kachig Dedeian made a motion that the 1976 diocesan dues are not to exceed 2500.00 including the stewardship program. The motion was seconded and passed. The 1976 budget was then passed.

Old Business

Harry Darhanian said our choir was in very poor shape and the entire burden of the choir was placed on one or two people and something should be done about it. Kachig Dedeian suggested the Parish Council work on improving the situation. Arshalous Darhanian made a motion that Mr. Moses Tashjian head a choir committee. Mr. Tashjian declined the offer.

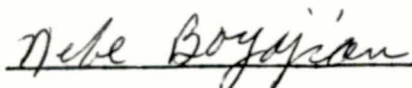
Ruth Sharigian suggested that we get Diocesan Assembly delegates that are able to attend meetings as this was very important to us and it should be attended. It was also suggested the Parish Council pay the expenses for the delegates as most people could not afford to take three or four days off for the meetings.

Jerry Sharigian made the following motion: Due to the death of two of our church properties trustees and also taking into consideration the acquisition of additional property and the construction of our educational building addition, we request that His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian designate additional dues paying members from our parish as trustees of our church properties. During the ensuing discussion the following suggestion was made: the Parish Council submit the names of two dues paying members from our parish to the Primate, requesting his approval. The motion was seconded and carried by a vote of 18 to 5 in favor.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer.


Ann Goff, Secretary


Nebe Boyajian, Chairman


Rev. Arsen Barsamian, Pastor