

MINUTES OF
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 1975

In the absence of Mr. Philip O'Gulian, Chairman of the 1974 Parish Assembly, the meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m. by Dr. S. A. Essefian, Chairlady of the Parish Council, who invited His Grace, Bishop Papken, to deliver the opening prayer and bless the assembly.

Dr. Essefian then read the names of six members and one benefactor who died during 1974 and asked the Assembly to rise and observe a moment of silence in their memory. (Mrs. Manoush Hintlian, Prof. John Hanessian, Jr., Dr. Levon Terzian, Mr. Jack Kalayjian, Mrs. Mary Avedikian, and Mr. Jack Babashanian and Mr. Edward Turmanian, benefactor.)

Miss Isabelle Goshgarian read the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted as read. The motion carried.

Roll was taken. Out of 133 fully paid and eligible members, there were (83) voting members present. Mr. Gary Avedikian then advised the Assembly what the criteria are for a voting member - six months membership prior to July 1 in order to be eligible to vote.

The floor was then opened for nominations for Chairman of the 1975 Parish Assembly. The names of Dr. Edward Onanian and Colonel George Juskalian were submitted and put to vote. Colonel Juskalian received 45 votes and Dr. Onanian received 26. Colonel Juskalian was elected Chairman of the 1975 Parish Assembly. Miss Ann Kavookian was unanimously chosen as Secretary of the Parish Assembly. ✓ ?

Dr. Edward Onanian then made a motion to change the order of business as listed on the Agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dr. Onanian then asked if discussion of the Benefactors Plaque should be placed under old business or new business as this board was purchased when he was a member of the Parish Council and they, at the time, could not determine whose names should be selected to be placed on the board and he was questioning the criteria used. Colonel Juskalian advised this item should be brought up under new business.

All reports of the different Church organizations were mailed to the Parishioners prior to the Parish Assembly with the exception of four which were distributed today. A motion was made and seconded that all reports be accepted as submitted. Motion carried. However, each Chairperson stood up and added a few personal comments.

His Grace, Bishop Papken, explained that his report was in both Armenian and English and self-explanatory.

In the Parish Council's report made by Dr. S. A. Essefian, she thanked all subordinate organizations for their cooperation and good work throughout the year which helped make it a most successful one. She expressed her gratitude especially to the Women's Guild as well as her joy in the success of the ACYOA. Dr. Essefian answered a question about the item of services in Baltimore in her report. She advised that we were directed by the Diocese to hold services in Baltimore which would be held in an Episcopal Church after our services in Washington. Dr. Essefian answered another question put to her about the criteria she used in selecting names for the Benefactors Plaque advising that the three names were taken from the Anniversary Booklet and the other names by consulting with senior members of the Parish as well as His Grace, Bishop Papken, and others.

The Auditing Committee's report was read by Dr. Edward Onanian.

Diocesan Delegates' Report - Colonel Juskalian went briefly over the contents stating that Archbishop Torkom Manoogian had again been elected Primate and drew special attention to the Clergy Stipends Committee Report.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Miss Ann Kavookian.

Dr. Charles Kumkumian added to the Sunday School's report that more participation by parents was needed in Sunday School matters.

Mr. Jack Andonian added to his Choir's Report that new robes and books were being ordered.

Miss Malvina Brown, Co-Chairperson of the ACYOA, made a few remarks about the increase in membership and also about the enthusiasm of the group and asked for support in their forthcoming event.

At this point, Mr. Sahag Dedeyan asked to be recognized and stated that the ACYOA should be commended for the magnificent job they had done in reorganizing and praised them for having such a successful year.

Dr. Edward Onanian, Chairman of the Building Fund Committee, read his report and advised the parishioners that these monies were derived from "In Lieu of Flowers" and 50% of the receipts from the annual bazaar.

Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Bazaar Chairman, advised the parishioners that we made approximately the same amount (\$8,000) as last year from the annual bazaar. Mr. Hekimian was commended for another successful bazaar.

Colonel Juskalian commented on the thoroughness of all the reports and thanked each and everyone. (Copies of all reports attached)

The next item on the agenda was the election of four new Parish Council members to serve for two years. Colonel Juskalian called on the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Charles Kumkumian, who advised that there were four vacancies in the Parish Council, however, his committee could only come up with two names at the time the ballots were printed. Since then, Mr. Jack Andonian had consented to run and his name should be placed on the ballot. The other two names on the ballot are incumbent Gary Avedikian and Levon Jamgochian. Mr. Mukitar Derderian was nominated from the floor which gave the necessary number to fill the vacancies.

Colonel Juskalian advised the membership to vote only for the Nominating Committee as this was the only area that needed a vote and a count was necessary. After the vote was taken, the meeting recessed for lunch and the parishioners were requested to return by 3:30 p.m. ✓ ?

The meeting was again called to order and the tellers announced that the following were elected to the Nominating Committee: Mr. Abraham Bodurian (48), Dr. Ohannes Sahakyan (40) and Mr. Casey Kazanjian (36). The four new members of the Parish Council are Mr. Jack Andonian, Mr. Gary Avedikian, Mr. Mukitar Derderian and Mr. Levon Jamgochian. The Auditing Committee consists of Mr. Raymond Babigan, Mr. Sahag Dedeyan and Dr. Edward Onanian. ?

The Proposed Budget was presented by Dr. Edward Onanian and he answered the question as to why the Building Fund was kept separate from the proposed budget. He stated that perhaps the Parish Council should consider this at a later date but in our Church we had always kept this item separate from the proposed budget. The report was accepted as submitted.

Under the item Old Business, Miss Ann Kavookian read letters to and from the Diocese concerning the assignment of a new pastor to St. Mary's. At this point, Mr. Bodurian asked to be recognized and advised those present that on November 23, 1974, while in Philadelphia at the Regional Meeting of the Diocese, he had an opportunity to confer with His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, for a few minutes concerning the subject of a new pastor for St. Mary's and was advised that there are a few minor points left which will be cleared very soon.

Dr. Edward Onanian asked to be recognized and made the following motion which was seconded: " That the Parish Assembly designate a committee of five to meet with the Primate to determine (1) the status of the Primate's efforts to meet the March 31, 1974, request of St. Mary's Parish and (2) to report their findings to a Special Parish Assembly Meeting." He asked for a secret ballot.

Mr. Abraham Bodurian explained the circumstances which instigated the correspondence with the Primate concerning a new pastor.

His Grace, Bishop Papken, asked to be recognized and said that six years ago the Archbishop had appointed him pastor and not this Assembly and that last year he had announced that he was not a candidate and at this point re-read his letter of January 21, 1974, to the Parish Assembly. He added "If my people would like me to serve, I will accept."

Mr. Jack Andonian then advised that on his own he had personally made 80 telephone calls to the paid up members of St. Mary's and since we do not have a new priest, His Grace, Bishop Papken, be asked to stay as our pastor. His feelings were that most people he talked to wanted Bishop Papken to stay.

Mr. Levon Garabedian stated "We have heard that the Archbishop has entered into lengthy and sensitive and delicate negotiations. I feel it is important that before this Assembly takes any steps we find out at this point what shape the Archbishop's negotiations are in. It would be premature on our part to take any action in the absence of formal and positive action from New York. What we have now is, the Archbishop is close to making a decision - if he is that close and there is no incumbrance, to find out how the matter stands. It would be unfortunate if we make a decision when the Archbishop has taken action."

Mr. Bodurian again gave further explanation as to why we asked for a new pastor at St. Mary's in the first place.

At this point, His Grace, Bishop Papken, withdrew his letter of January 21, 1974, and advised that he wished to stay.

Mr. Sahag Dedeyan asked Bishop Papken if he had informed the Primate of his decision to stay. Bishop Papken answered, "Torkom Srpazan and I are brothers. I think he is happy with my decision. I want to continue my work and he knows it."

Dr. Onanian asked, "Why did Bishop Papken put his decision in writing one year ago and not in writing the following year?" The Bishop answered that he will put it in writing.

Dr. Onanian then stated that there was a motion on the floor and to go on with it.

Dr. Essefian then asked to be recognized and stated, "It was only a month ago that His Grace, Bishop Papken, was recommending to the Parish Council a priest from Ethiopia and urging the Parish Council to consider him as our pastor. When did he advise the Primate that he has changed his decision?"

Bishop Papken answered, "You have the Diocese's telephone number, call him up and find out."

Roll was taken again. Dr. Onanian's motion to send a committee to meet with the Primate was defeated (37-No and 30-Yes).

Under new business, Mr. Jack Andonian made a motion which was seconded that the Parish Assembly request Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, to reappoint Bishop Papken as our pastor for a second term. He submitted his list of members contacted by telephone to Colonel Juskalian.

Dr. Onanian advised that the By-Laws require a 2/3 vote on this motion.

The motion was defeated (31-No, 28-Yes and 2 ballots were marked "abstained".)

Mr. Sahag Dedeyan stated that we cannot accept Mr. Jack Andonian's list as submitted. He then asked His Grace, Bishop Papken, "Was the Parish Council informed of your decision?" The Bishop answered, "No". Mr. Dedeyan then asked "Was the Primate informed?" The Bishop answered, "Yes".

Still under new business further discussion was held on the Benefactors Plaque.

Dr. Onanian suggested that no additional names be placed on the plaque until the Parish Council establishes some criteria.

Colonel Juskalian added that a deadline be set.

Mr. Levon Garabedian suggested that a committee be appointed to work with the Parish Council to establish criteria to present to the next Parish Assembly.

Dr. Onanian made a motion which was seconded that the Parish Assembly direct the Parish Council to establish a criteria for designation of "benefactor" on the plaque entitled, "Benefactors of St. Mary's Church" and report these criteria to the next Parish Assembly. Further, until such criteria are established, the name plates on the plaque be removed.

Mr. Jerry Hekimian asked that the motion be amended to divide into two parts. Motion to amend seconded. Motion sustained.

The motion that the Parish Council establish criteria was carried (36 in favor and 17 opposed). The motion to remove the name plates carried (29 in favor and 24 opposed).

It was decided that the discussion on air conditioning and the new annex be postponed until a special meeting is called by the Parish Council.

Dr. Ohannes Sahakyan made a motion which was seconded that the dues be increased from \$52 to \$100 per year. Jerry Hekimian asked that the motion be amended to read "increase the dues" without specifying any amount. The amended motion was seconded. The motion did not carry.

It was suggested that the Parish Council make this recommendation for an increase in dues to the next Parish Assembly.

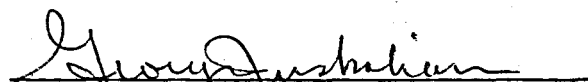
Colonel Juskalian commended all the Church bodies and particularly Dr. S. A. Essefian on the fine work she did as Parish Council Chairlady and for all her accomplishments during the year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. (No benediction)

Respectfully submitted,


Ann H. Kavookian, Secretary.

Approved by:


George Juskalian, Chairman


Rt. Reverend Bishop Papken, President