

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1979

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, Washington, D. C. convened in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. after a light lunch served immediately following church services. The meeting was called to order by Miss Sirarpi Ohannessian, Chairman, Parish Council. Father V. Kalayjian read the opening prayer. The Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Vartabedian called the roll of 1978 dues paying members; 65 members were present which constituted a quorum.

Following the roll call, Miss Ohannessian called for nominations for Chairman of the Assembly. Dr. C. Kumkumian and Miss Valentine Stahl, who were on the slate, were elected as Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

The first item following elections were the minutes of the 1978 Assembly. Since the minutes of the 1978 Assembly were included in the Notice of Meeting for the 1979 Parish Assembly, they were not read. The Chairman asked for comments before accepting the minutes. For record purposes, Father Kalayjian called attention to the word, "unanimously" on page 5 as it referred to the nominees to the Parish Council. He stated that the Parish Council members' (5) election by "acclamation" was not in accordance to the by-laws. Hence the Primate would not approve an election by voice vote and insisted the election of the Parish Council members be by secret ballot. Subsequently, a second election was held by secret ballot. The revised minutes were then accepted as corrected.

REPORTS

Pastor's Report. As Der Hayr had not submitted a previous separate report in Armenian, he briefly summarized in Armenian, the highlights of his activities during 1978, namely, home blessings, hospital visits, social services and immigration assistance to name a few. He pointed out that Parish requirements for these services increase from year to year and he has had to call on various Parish members for help in finding jobs, housing, etc.. He stressed the need to reach out to all persons who have decided to come to our church and participate in its activities. He stated that he cannot handle all these requests himself and has had to call on others for help in their special field. Father Kalayjian praised and thanked everyone - Parish Council, Choir, Women's Guild, Church School, ACYO, Hye Club, et al, for their unstinting cooperation during 1978. He concluded with a plea to concentrate our efforts on the betterment of our community.

At this point, Mr. Bodurian asked for the total dues paying membership which was given as 159. Eleven persons have joined in 1979 who were not eligible to vote. At this time, total dues paying membership numbers 170. Out of 159 members, 70 paid \$52 dues, 30 paid \$75, 48 paid \$200, 8 paid \$250, 2 paid \$300, and 1 paid \$800 in 1978. Mr. Casey Kazanjian offered a resolution to commend Der Hayr and Yeretzgin for their outstanding accomplishments and efforts in the past year, for our church. It passed unanimously.

Parish Council Report. Miss Ohannessian mentioned the report which the Construction Committee would give later. She also informed everyone that the March 3rd date for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of St. Mary's had been postponed to the fall. Mrs. Julie Oskoian and her children have decided to donate a new organ to the church in memory of late Mr. Gregory Oskoian. Miss Ohannessian also thanked the members of the congregation for the cooperation and help they had given in various ways. Dr. Kumkumian thanked Mrs. J. Oskoian for her generosity and expressed the hope that it would serve as an example for all.

Treasurer's Report. The only comment made by the Treasurer was that pledge amounts had increased over last year. Mr. Jerry Hekimian, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, reported that it has reviewed the financial accounts of the various organizations and found all books in order except those of the ACYO and Armenian School. In both cases a modification of the report was needed. Mr. Hekimian concluded with the suggestion that a standard bookkeeping system be adopted by all groups to simplify bookkeeping and auditing.

Proposed Budget A motion was made and seconded that this item be placed at the end of the agenda. Motion was carried.

Diocesan Report

Two reports of the 76th Diocesan Assembly appeared in the Notice of Meeting submitted by our two delegates.

Women's Guild Report. Mrs. Doris George thanked everyone for helping with the various activities performed by the Women's Guild.

Church School Report. Dr. Kumkumian stated that he hoped additional classrooms would be available soon to alleviate the congestion and noise so disturbing during classes. He specifically requested that parents come to church early with their children so that they will be in church school on time. He also stressed the need for more teachers. Present teachers are good but more are needed.

Armenian School of Greater Washington Report. Mrs. M. Broussalian offered to answer questions on the report. There was none.

Choir Report. Jack Andonian reviewed the highlights of the report.

ACYOA. Maggie Prodromidis thanked the Parish Council, Women's Guild and congregation for their wholehearted support during 1978. Without the Women's Guild help and the Parish Council support twelve members would not have been able to attend the summer seminar at St. Nerses Seminary. Dr. Onanian also commended the ACYO members for the excellent landscaping job they had done on the church grounds.

HYE Club Report. Mr. Mike Tashjian reviewed the activities of the Hye Club during 1978.

Project Reach-Out. The assembly passed a motion that this report would be handled under Old Business.

Building Fund. Dr. Onanian commented on the report. He stated membership grew from 2 to 11 but is now down to 9 because one member dropped out due to transportation problems and the other never came to meetings. The "currency conversion" item in the financial report was the cost of converting Canadian dollars which had been donated amounting to \$279.92. He also strongly urged the need for a minimum of \$75,000 NOW before any construction can be started. To date, a \$5,000 pledge has come in - 3 for \$1,000 each, 1 for \$2,000 and 2 for \$85.00 each. As a result of this appeal, the following pledges were made by members present:

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Tashjian	\$2,000
Mrs. Julie Oskoian	5,000
Mr. & Mrs. George Semerjian	1,000

Mr. & Mrs. Ashod Krikorian	\$1,000
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Babigan	1,000
Valentine B. Stahl	1,000
Mrs. H. Nazarian	1,000
Total	\$12,000

Mr. Jerry Hekimian advised that the soil would be tested before any digging for the foundation. Date of completion depended upon the receipt of the initial \$75,000, weather and other unforeseen circumstances. Hopefully, the building would be ready for occupancy by the end of 1979.

A motion was made that the above reports be accepted. It was seconded and the reports were accepted as amended.

NOMINATIONS - ELECTIONS

Mr. George Derderian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, informed the Assembly that many members had been canvassed to serve on the Parish Council, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee but only those listed on the sample ballot had agreed to run. No nominations were made from the floor. Results of balloting:

PARISH COUNCIL

Mike Tashjian	- 47
George Derderian	- 39
Edward Onanian	- 37
Charles Kumkumian	- 34

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Vartkes Balian	- 37
Casey Kazanjian	- 36
Vartkes Broussalian	- 33

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Raymond Babigan	- 53
Harry Baker	- 53
John Kavookian	- 53

Votes cast for other nominees to:

PARISH COUNCIL

Albert Seropian	- 26
Philip O'Gulian	- 25

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Ray Babigan	- 32
Joseph Vartabedian	- 16

OLD BUSINESS

Project Reach Out

Mr. George Derderian summed up the activities of Reach Out and ended his remarks by saying that he and his wife, Anna had decided to withdraw as co-ordinators of the Project because of lack of interest and cooperation by the congregation. He went on to say that they had asked the Parish Council of their intentions as to whether the project should continue by letter dated May 9, 1978 but it was not until December 19th that the Parish Council answered urging them to continue Project Reach out. Upon further consideration, the Derderians answered by letter dated Jan. 24, 1979, repeating their decision to withdraw as coordinators. They would be willing to work and help the Project

but could no longer serve as Coordinators. Der Hayr urged Assembly members to make a concerted effort to go out to the many Armenians in the Washington area who are not affiliated with either church and draw them to St. Mary's so they can become involved in the religious growth of St. Mary's. Dr. John Gueriguian made a motion that the Parish Council be directed to revitalize Project Reach Out. It was seconded by Isabelle Goshgarian and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hratch Semerjian stated that there appears to be a communication gap between the choir and the Parish Council and possibly with other church organizations, possibly because of no liaison officers. Miss Ohannessian pointed out that liaison officers had been appointed with each group. This list had been published in the Shnorhali. Dr. Onanian repeated, as he has on other occasions, the fact that Parish Council meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend or submit an item for discussion at any time with prior notification.

Proposed Budget. Dr. Onanian scanned items of the proposed budget and pointed out that utility bills (gas and electric) were exceedingly high. He said the reason the heating bill (\$2400) and electricity (\$1200) were excessive was partially because of careless waste. Then he went on to explain the items included in the "Memorandum of Understanding" on page 14 of the Notice of Meeting attached to the Parish Council Report. Ann Kavookian made a motion to accept the proposed budget, seconded by George Derderian. It was carried.

Col. George Juskalian commended all organizations for the excellent and comprehensive reports submitted for their respective groups.

Father Kalayjian read the Benediction and the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentine (Bostonian) Stahl
Secretary

Charles Kumkumian
Chairman

Valentine (Bostonian) Stahl Fr. Vertanes Kasayjian
President

Charles Kumkumian

Fr. Kalayjian