

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1980



The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Washington, D.C., convened in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. after a light lunch served immediately after church services. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Edward Onanian, Parish Council Chairman. Rev. Father Vertanes Kalayjian, Pastor, offered the opening prayer. Mr. George Derderian, Parish Council Secretary, read the roll of 162 dues-paying members as of 1979; 65 were present, which constituted a quorum.

Following the roll call, Dr. Harry Baker, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the candidates for chairman of the Assembly: Col. George Juskalian and Mr. Casey Kazanjian. Col. Juskalian received 36 votes; Mr. Kazanjian received 25. Col. Juskalian assumed the chair. Dr. Baker announced that the Nominating Committee had been unable to enlist anyone to serve as secretary. Thereupon, Col. Juskalian announced that he would serve in that capacity if Mr. Kazanjian would assume the duties of chairman, which he did. Mr. Kazanjian appointed Dr. Onanian parliamentarian for the Assembly. Dr. Onanian asked if there was any objection by the Assembly to the arrangement of the chairman and secretary of the Assembly. There was none.

The first item following elections was the Minutes of the 1979 Assembly. Since the Minutes of the 1979 Assembly were included in the Notice of Meeting for the 1980 Parish Assembly (Encl. 1), they were not read. Mr. George Derderian submitted the following revision to the paragraph "Project Reach Out," which was accepted by the Assembly:

"Mr. George Derderian summed up the activities of Project Reach Out (PRO) for the calendar year 1978. He stated that a letter dated May 9, 1978 had been submitted to the Parish Council providing various options on how to proceed with Project Reach Out, with recommendations. On December 19, 1978 the Parish Council responded with a letter which asked the Derderians to continue the project. The Derderians responded with a letter dated January 24, 1979. Mrs. Broussalian requested that the January 24 letter be read. In that letter the Derderians declined to continue to serve as coordinators of the project because there were verbal indications that the Parish Council did not desire the continuance of the project. However, the Derderians offered to give their full assistance to help the project, but could no longer serve as coordinators. Several parishioners asked why the reply to the May 9, 1978 letter had taken seven months. The Parish Council Chairperson stated that there were problems in reproducing copies of the May 9 letter to give to the other members of the Parish Council.

"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 that they can become involved in the religious growth of St. Mary's. Dr. John Guerigian made a motion that the Parish Council be directed to re-vitalize Project Reach Out. It was seconded by Isabelle Goshgarian and carried."

REPORTS

Pastor's Report (Encl. 1). In his remarks in extension of his written report, Father Kalayjian stated that the over-all growth of the Parish was encouraging. Only in one area did he feel that we had not progressed satisfactorily: the area represented by Project Reach Out, since no replacements had been found to assume the role previously assumed by the Derderians. To the best of his knowledge, Father Kalayjian indicated that there had been no meaningful membership drive in the church for at least the past decade. Since Project Reach Out was, in a sense, a thrust in that the direction, the pastor was hopeful that something on the order of Project Reach Out could be started in 1980.

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of St. Mary's during 1979 signalled, in effect, the start of the building program for the church annex.

Father Kalayjian was pleased to announce that a former pastor of St. Mary's, Bishop Karekin Kazanjian, Primate of Australia and New Zealand, had recently been elevated to the rank of archbishop. The pastor requested authority to dispatch a telegram of congratulations to Archbishop Karekin, which the Assembly granted.

Mr. Casey Kazanjian offered a resolution to commend Der Hayr and Yeretgin for their outstanding accomplishments and efforts in the past year. It passed unanimously.

Parish Council Report (Encl. 1). In his remarks in extension of the written report, Dr. Onanian said that the present composition of the Parish Council with nine members, which required the presence of at least five for a quorum, was presenting difficulties. On several occasions the quorum requirement was not met, thus delaying decisions and imposing a hardship on those attending. He said he would bring the matter up again under new business.

He gave praise to Dr. Charles Kumkumian, a member of the Parish Council, Mr. Berj Koukeyan, Mr. Tom Magarian and others for the weekly maintenance jobs performed by them over the past several months. He pointed out that we have only a part-time janitor (we cannot afford a full-time one); accordingly, he requested all organizations and individuals to keep the place clean - to pick up after each use.

Dr. Onanian emphasized that Project Reach Out was still on the Parish Council agenda and would be revived.

In response to a question, Dr. Onanian indicated that an English language editor had not yet been found for the church paper, SHNORHALI. He also stated that a satisfactory part-time secretary and choir master had not been found. He reported that the church would begin to finance organ lessons for one of our youth, and hoped that through such action we could develop a corps of back-up organists.

Treasurer's Report (Encl. 1). Dr. Onanian explained the Treasurer's Report line by line.

Diocesan Delegate Report (Encl. 1). Mr. Bodurian explained that he had prepared a lengthy report so as to provide the parish with the beginnings of a reference library. Dr. Onanian pointed out that at the Diocesan Assembly last year it was announced that the 1980 Assembly would be held in New York. Subsequently, in July 1979, the Diocese asked St. Mary's to host the 1980 Diocesan Assembly. St. Mary's agreed with the proviso that the meetings would be held in a hotel in view of the inadequacy of the Parish's facilities.

ACYOA Report (Encl. 1). Pending receipt of the financial annex, the report was accepted out of agenda order to permit the ACYOA chairperson, Miss Alison Terzian, to attend another meetings.

Women's Guild Report (Encl. 1). Mrs. Alice Baker thanked everyone for helping with the various activities conducted by the Guild.

Church School Report (Encl. 2). Miss Ann Kavookian, Treasurer of the Church School, explained that the year-end balance of \$556.54 was misleading since the school had not yet received a bill from the Diocese for books and other teaching materials which would probably use up the balance. Audit of the Church School accounts was inadvertently not accomplished. Audit results will be included in an Amended Audit Committee report.

Armenian School Report (Encl. 2). In response to a question, Mrs. Marie Broussalian, chairman of the Armenian School Committee, stated that the bulk of the large cash balance in the School's treasury was being held in reserve for the purchase of desks, chairs, blackboards and other school equipment once the new church annex with its classrooms was constructed.

On a motion by Mr. George Derderian, the Assembly commended the Armenian School Committee for its accomplishments during the past year.

Choir Report (Encl. 2). Dr. Hratch Semerjian repeated the statement previously made by Dr. Onanian that the choir was in need of a choir master.

HYE Club Report (Encl. 2). Mr. Mike Tashjian reviewed the activities of the HYE Club during 1979. Mr. Bodurian offered a motion complimenting the club, especially for its New Year's party. The motion was approved.

Building Fund Financial Report (Encl. 1). In response to questions, Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Chairman of the Building Construction Committee, indicated that architectural and technical drawings had been considerably overdue but were expected to be on hand within the next week or two. Thereafter bids would be solicited and it was anticipated that construction would begin around April 1. The initial cost estimate of \$160,000 has now been increased to somewhere between \$185,000 and \$250,000.

Bazaar Financial Report (Encl. 2). Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Chairman of the Bazaar Committee, disclosed that of the net proceeds, \$8,100 had been turned over to the church treasurer for operating expenses and \$8,100 to the Building Fund. The Assembly commended the Bazaar Committee for its most successful bazaar to date.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the above reports be accepted.

NOMINATIONS - ELECTIONS

At this point Dr. Onanian requested and was granted permission of the Assembly to enter an item of new business prior to the elections. He referred to his earlier remarks about the difficulty of obtaining a quorum at parish council meetings. Accordingly, he submitted a motion which was seconded that the membership of the parish council be reduced from nine to seven members effective this year. Mr. Robert George then moved an amendment which was seconded that the reduction from nine to seven members be on a trial basis for one year. After some discussion, the amendment was approved by the Assembly by a vote of 31 to 6. Thereafter, the amended motion was passed by a vote of 42 to 3.

Dr. Harry Baker then submitted the list of candidates. Mr. Derderian requested his name be withdrawn from the list of nominees for Auditing Committee in view of the fact that he would still be a member of the Parish Council. No nominations were made from the floor. Results of the balloting were:

Parish Council

Mr. Thomas Magarian	- 41
Mr. Jack Arzoomanian	- 38
Dr. John Gueriguian	- 36

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Margo Hekimian	- 48
Mrs. Virginia Sahakyan	- 42
Miss Valentine Stahl	- 38

Auditing Committee

Mr. Vaughn Sayian	- 40
Mr. Jerry Hekimian	- 36
Mrs. Anna Semerjian	- 36

Votes cast for other nominees:

Parish Council

Mr. Gary Avedikian - 27
Mrs. Evelyn Vartabedian - 15
Mrs. Hripsime Nazarian - 11

Nominating Committee

Mrs. Myrna Seropian - 36

Auditing Committee

Mr. John Kavookian - 35
Mr. Jack Andonian - 29

Auditing Committee Report. Mr. Vartkes Balian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, stated that the financial accounts of all church organizations had been audited except those of the Church School, which would be audited at a later date and a supplemental report submitted. The oral report of the Auditing Committee was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS None.

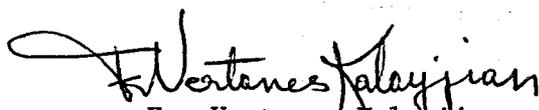
NEW BUSINESS None other than that reported under NOMINATIONS - ELECTIONS.

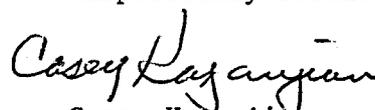
Proposed Budget (Encl. 1). Dr. Onanian explained items of the proposed budget and pointed out that two additional line items had been entered: Charitable Activities and Depreciation Reserve. He explained that from time to time local Armenian families needed assistance on an emergency basis and the Charitable Activities budget of \$500 was for that purpose. As for the Depreciation Reserve, Dr. Onanian stated that it should have been a regular line item long ago and that we were simply conforming with proper budget procedure. He then called attention to the up-dated Memorandum of Understanding and requested the Assembly to act first on the memorandum and then the proposed budget. After a brief discussion, both were approved in the order requested.

Father Kalayjian then gave the benediction during which time the names of the following parish members who had died during the past year were remembered: William DuChessi, Srpouhie Essefian, Caspar Kasparian and Edward Sourian.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian
President


Casey Kazanjian
Chairman


George Juskalian
Secretary