

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, February 3, 1985

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D.C. was called to order by the Parish Council Chairman, Mike Tashjian, at 1:35 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian offered the opening prayer, immediately thereafter the roll of the voting members was called and out of the 139 members eligible to vote, 59 were present; thereby constituting a quorum. Later that number rose to 61.

At the invitation of Mike Tashjian, the Nominating Committee Chairman, Mrs. Grace Shahinian, submitted the names of the following candidates for the Assembly Tivan:

Chairman: Col. George Juskalian
Secretary: Mrs. Arpy Tate

The nominations were closed and the Tivan was elected through a secret ballot. Col. Juskalian thanked the Assembly for the honor bestowed upon him and upon Mrs. Tate, and proceeded with the Agenda.

Agenda: It was commented that the agenda was well prepared to the satisfaction of all the members. There were some complaints about the reports being delayed. Der Hayr agreed with them and added that this delay could be avoided if the chairmen of the organizations submitted their reports to him on time.

The Agenda was amended to include the reports of ACEF, Seminar on Christian Faith, and the Bookstore.

Minutes of the 1984 Assembly: A general explanation was given on the notes of the Minutes of the Parish Assembly. It was suggested that instead of the reference "a friend" the name of Col. Morgan Childs be added as the donor of the specially made wooden plaque. The minutes were accepted.

Pastor's Report : It was noted that this year was an especially active year in terms of visiting clergy who had the opportunity of visiting our church and community from all over the world.

Counseling and Social Services: Der Hayr gave a general explanation about his availability in terms of immigration, housing, jobs, marriage and family counselling as well as individual and private counselling, personal recommendations, etc. He also emphasized the fact that considerable time and energy has been spent on handling social services, research assistance, etc. He also summarized the publication of the parish newsletter, Shnorhali. He thanked all those who helped in collating and mailing of this publication.

Auxiliary Organizations: He reiterated the fact that in addition to the Parish Council he worked closely with the church organizations and presided over their meetings; such as Women's Guild, Choir, Church School, Armenian School, Sr. and Jr. ACYOA, and Ararat Avak Society. His special thanks were directed to all the executive members and the chairmen, superintendents and teachers for their dedication and diligence.

Here, Der Hayr thanked Dean Shahinian for keeping the educational program on a regular and active schedule. He further added that an anonymous benefactor had sent a \$1000.00 check - he thanked him/her too.

In addition to this factual report, Der Hayr shared the following thoughts. He wanted to emphasize the fact that people need each other's love to put up with each other. He would like to see the church attended by more parishioners on Sundays so that we could maintain the fellowship necessary for growth. His exhortation was to reach out and touch someone and bring him here for the fellowship.

Der Hayr placed great emphasis upon the fact that it is imperative for us to organize and maintain regular study of the Bible. Prayers and Bible study are essential to one's soul, and are the key to our spiritual satisfaction. This attempt, Der Hayr emphasized, is to establish strong Christian fellowship through Bible study, needs our parishioners support. This church, he said, is not merely a social organization. It's a Christian church with Armenian flavor. He then added that there are a few parishioners who keep alert, and "this kind of feeling is mutually challenging", Der Hayr concluded. His report was accepted as given.

Parish Council Report. Mr. Mike Tashjian, Chairman of the Parish Council, said the Parish Council held 23 meetings during the year, and that the Council has made a great number of decisions. He further added that this year has been a successful one, too, and they had a very active year and met all the challenges. The following were the items which were discussed then, some in detail and some were touched briefly.

Renovation: The renovation work was completed especially with the installation of the central air-conditioning system in the sanctuary, old hall and kitchen making the entire building air-conditioned. Special thanks go to Mr. Jerry Hekimian who acted as In-House Construction Manager.

Bazaar: Thanks again to our Women's Guild and other dedicated members for making this year's bazaar a success. Thanks to Dr. Edward Onanian for getting it all together.

Bingo Game: No definite decision has been made yet in regard to organizing a Bingo game schedule for both our parishioners and

also for the public. At this point, there were different views expressed. Some were for it and others against it. Those who were for it emphasized the fact that they worked so hard at bazaar time to raise a few dollars more, yet by scheduling the Bingo games they would easily have sufficeint funds to take care of other needs; others strongly believed that "Bingo" is part of a gambling game that should not be exercised on the premises of our church, nor anywhere else under the auspices of St. Mary's Armenian Church. More on this matter see under New Business.

Library: The library is ready for the committee to take care of. Bookstore sales and parking lot rentals are being handled by our dedicated Manager, Mr. Gary Avedikian and his wife Queenie.

Mr. Tashjian thanked Der Hayr for his hard work and guidance, and added that without his support and guidance we would never have had a successful year.

An amendment was made to show the figure of \$4,517.52 which was raised and forwarded to the Holy Cross fund.

The Parish Council Report was accepted as amended.

DIOCESAN DELEGATE'S REPORT

Mr. Vartkess Balian highlighted the Diocesan Delegate's Report as follows:

With regard to observance of the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide in 1985, there is an agreement between the Diocese and Prélacy not to conflict with each other's activities.

The unity question had come up at the Diocesan Assembly. In connection with the Unity Committee's deliberations, the Prelacy members of the Unity Committee had suggested joint observances of the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide. However, the Diocesan members of the Unity Committee placed as a condition on this proposal that progress first be made on preparation of the joint by-laws. And since apparently there had been either no or negligible progress on the joint by-laws, no agreement had been reached to hold joint observances of the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide.

Dr. John Guerigian then sought the Assembly's attitude toward the action of the Diocesan Unity Committee members in placing a condition [progress in preparation of the joint by-laws] upon joint observance of the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide and made a motion to that effect. The Assembly Chairman ruled that Dr. Guerigian's motion constituted new business and should be deferred until "new business" was reached on the Assembly's agenda.

Mr. Balian thanked the Parish for having given him the honor of serving as delegate.

The report was accepted.

A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors Report

The Chairman, Zaven Kalayjian added a few words of thanks to the Parish Council, Miss Alenoush and Der Hayr for their advice and help. The report was accepted. The Assembly Chairman thanked the Juniors for the delicious luncheon which they had served before the meeting.

Women's Guild Annual Report

There are 84 members in the Guild. General membership meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and Executive meetings are held as needed. Ten new members were recruited this year. The report was accepted.

Church School: Linda Ekizian, Superintendent, gave the report. One typographical error in the 3rd paragraph under Disbursements against Ethiopian Collection sent to Diocese, it should be \$35.00 and \$80.00. She thanked Der Hayr for asking her to be the Superintendent of the Sunday School.

The report was accepted.

Armenian School: Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Superintendent gave the report. The school meets every Sunday from 12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M., September through June. The 1984-85 school year began on September 16, 1984. We have now 44 students as compared to the 41 students last year. Next year there will be added the 4th class too.

The report was accepted as rendered.

Church Choir: Mr. Armenak Boyajian, Choirmaster, gave the report. A general explanation was given regarding St. Mary's Choir activities. The choir under the direction of Mr. Boyajian had a year full of exciting events, mainly the weekend of September 28-30 whereby the Choir hosted the 38th Annual Choir Assembly of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs. Special thanks were conveyed to the members of the choir who so diligently worked to achieve their goal.

The report was accepted.

Hye Club Report: Mr. Mike Tashjian gave an oral report. The Hye Club had a New Year's celebration this year at the Holiday Inn with approximately 175 people attending. Their activities have been limited this year. It was commented that a need for a leader for this group is imperative. For details of their financial standing please see Hye Club Report attached (Addendum #1). Their report was accepted as rendered.

Avak Society: It was reported that \$300 was donated by the Avak Society to the Building Fund. It was also commented about their monthly gatherings, and Der Hayr thanked those who have rendered their services to the Society.

Armenian Church Endowment Fund: Col. George Juskalian submitted an oral report and announced that in 1984 there was a substantial donation to the Fund, namely \$25,000 by Mr. Arthur Dadian, a long time member of the Washington community. The \$25,000 was donated in remembrance of his deceased parents and his two sisters and brother. The ACEF report was accepted as rendered.

Building Fund Committee Report: Dr. Onanian submitted his report in detail giving a general explanation about the expenses incurred and yet to be incurred, as they saw the need for further improvements. In particular, a significant amount of work remains to be done in the kitchen. He also added that there is a great need for the completion of the landscaping project. He gave a detailed breakdown of the total costs incurred for renovation in 1984 as well as itemizing the pledge payments and donations. He thanked the parishioners for their remarkable response to appeals during the past several years.

There were no questions made. The Building Fund Committee Report was accepted as rendered.

Seminar on Christian Faith.

Dean Shahinian gave additional information on the written report. It was accepted.

Bookstore: Gary Avedikian, Bookstore Manager, submitted his report briefly, emphasizing the fact that the bookstore items are priced at 20% over the cost price. The bookstore was able to turn over \$2,000 to the Parish Council in 1984.

Altar Renovation and Kitchen Renovation: Der Hayr expressed his concern about the altar. He commented that there is a great need for the renovation of the altar. He informed the Assembly that there were individuals who offered to help with the expenses of the remodelling of the altar if Der Hayr would submit the final costs. The Parish Council underwrote some initial costs and we are now going to receive bids. Once they get these bids Der Hayr will be contacting the gentlemen. The sketches were made to show to the Assembly.

However, at this time there were questions raised about the kitchen. Some expressed strongly their concern about the need for the kitchen renovation first and then the altar. There were members who concurred with this idea and there were others who considered the altar as the number one priority. It was stated that the Parish Assembly is the place to make a decision for a major project of this sort. Consequently, a motion was approved that the Parish Council continue with this project, setting up an appropriate committee to proceed with this project, taking into consideration the comments made by various members of this Assembly. A special Parish Assembly will be called to review the committee's proposals. The Parish Council proposed a \$1,000 allocation. The amendment of the motion was accepted with the \$1,000 allocation.

New Business: A letter was submitted by a parishioner concerning the proposed Bingo Games on church premises. Information was given that, in order to conduct Bingo 20 to 25 dedicated members are needed.

A motion requesting the Assembly's attitude toward conducting Bingo in the church resulted in a count of 26 members in favor and 11 opposed. A second motion requesting that the Parish Council explore further the feasibility of conducting Bingo in the church and report its findings to the Assembly was approved.

Auditing Committee Report and Proposed Budget: The Auditing Committee report was prepared by Blanche Manian, Dean Shahinian and Leon Garabedian. Col. Juskalian read the report. The Auditing Committee had found the books in order except the A.C.Y.O.A. Jr. and Srs. and the Hye Club books. They had made several recommendations concerning energy conservation to bring the cost of utilities down. They also remarked that efforts should be made to collect overdue tuitions in the Armenian School and more care be exercised in ordering books.

The Auditing Committee's report was accepted. (See their report as addendum #2)

Proposed Budget: Dr. Onanian gave a general explanation about the proposed budget. It was approved as proposed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for the calendar year of 1984 was reviewed. There was no objection to its contents and therefore it was accepted as read.

Election: Mrs. Grace Shahinian on behalf of her committee presented the nominations for the Parish Council, the Auditing and the Nominating Committee and for the Diocesan Delegates.

Nominations from the floor were entertained for all of the above.

For the Diocesan Delegate there were two additional nominations, whereby the names of Dr. Edward Onanian and Miss Sirarpi Ohannessian were added.

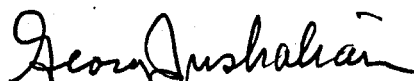
All nominations having been duly closed, the election took place from the newly printed ballot. See the attachment #3 for the names and number of votes each candidate received.

At about 5:45 P.M. as a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, Der Hayr took the opportunity to express his thanks to the outgoing Parish Council members particularly Dr. Edward Onanian for his continuous dedication and service to the church. He then congratulated the newly elected members.

Der Hayr offered the closing prayer and the Assembly was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian,
President,


George Juskalian
Chairman

Arpy Tate
Secretary