

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church

4605 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53402

414-639-0531



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ՌԷՑՄԻՆ, ՈՒՒՍՔԱՆՍԸՆ

Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Pastor

Տ. Կարապետ Քահանայ Քոչաքեան - Հովիւ

9 February 1988
Feast of Saint Ghévond

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Diocese of the Armenian Church in America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Srpazan Hayr,

I am writing to you relative to the Kansas City situation of which we spoke by telephone recently. As per your suggestions I contacted Father Shenork Kasparian to inquire about a list of names and his own experience with the Armenian community out there. His explanations were not really all that illuminating so I call Mr. Charles Hajinian of whom you spoke. After speaking with him at great length I came to know the situation a little better. He seemed to be reluctant to become involved because of time and personal work related commitments as well as fears that such an attempt to establish another group would not be a positive step.

He said that there are only two people, himself and a Mrs. Gulaian (quite elderly) who have no allegiance to Hatutian and Zakarian. The remaining number 'blindly' follow them. I tend to agree that to hold a Badarak would not be the answer to a much greater problem which is that of lack of discipline and accountability.

In May of 1986 when we visited the Kansas city group were Hatutian and Zakarian officially appointed by you with a letter as a parish council? If so, then to establish a totally new group with out relieving them of their appointments could be cause for a problem.

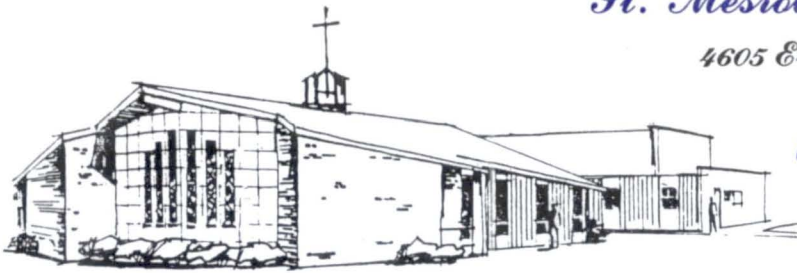
May I suggest the following. Along with Father Shenork and myself, two lay members of the Diocesan Council in your name also travel to Kansas City and meet with Hatutian and Zakarian as per your directive by letter. During the meeting we should address the impropriety of the 'neutral' posture and explain Armenian Church polity vis a vis Etchmiadzin's authority, canonical regulations etc. In a spirit of openness everything should be discussed. A response from them should be solicited and decisions made.



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✓ If they are unwilling to comply with our visitation team's recommendations then a letter addressed to them abolishing them of their official appointment by you (if it were made) would be proper.

I think this approach will bring this problem to a head and a solution reached once and for all. Should any question relative to this sordid mentality and opportunism, be addressed at the Diocesan Assembly, at least there will be a substantive report to offer as, a) our diocesan response and b) as an example to other groups who foster such unorthodox notions.

I await your response,

With filial love
Your obedient son,

Father Garabed Kochakian

