

MINUTES
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN
CHURCH OF TORONTO
HELD ON FEB.17,1980

The general Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Toronto was held in the Church Hall on Sunday, February 17, 1980 at 4:30 p.m.

Rt.Rev.Vazken Keshishian, Vicar General for Canada and Pastor of the church opened the proceedings of the Assembly with a prayer.

ATTENDANCE:-

120 dues paying members were present.

ELECTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OFFICERS:-

Upon the recommendation of the nominating Committee the following members were elected unanimously to the positions of Chairman and Secretaries.

Mr. Hrant Souin	Chairman	
Mr. Torkom Zabounian	Secretary	- Armenian
Mr. Jirayr Yeretsian	Secretary	- English

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE ASSEMBLY:-

Mr. Haig Missakian moved to adopt the agenda as presented by the Parish Council after an ammendment, whereby business items 6 & 7, which deal with elections, would be moved to the bottom of the aganda.

Mr. Krikor Elmassian ammended this motion whereby items 6 & 7 would move to the spot after item 9 which was the report of the Parish Council.

Mr. Mihran Kuzuyan wanted a further ammendment whereby items 6 & 7 would be discussed after item II.

After a thorough discussion and in an effort to gain time the assembly adopted the motion to cahnge the order of the agenda as ammended by Mr. Krikor Elmassian by a vote of 80 - 5.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEB.25,1979:-

Mr. Torkom Zabounian read the minutes of last year's proceedings. The following corrections and suggestions were made:-

Mr. Sam Orchanian noted that his statement on page 6 was not correct. He wanted the resolution on Bishop Aris Shirvanian be sent to our Vehapar in Etchmiadzin through the official Diocesan channels.

Mr. John Kalaydjian suggested that the minutes be prepared both in Armenian and English languages.

Mr. Yeghia Berejiklian stated that as the entire reports were delivered to members ahead of time, the time consuming reading of the reports be omitted.

Dr. Shake Tokmanian recommended the use of quotation marks when the minutes state a member's statement verbatim.

Mr. Garo Deirmenjian approved the delivery of the annual reports ahead of the meeting although this year for a reason or another he did not receive his.

Finally the minutes of last year's General Assembly were adopted with the corrections noted above.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:-

Before the start of the presentation of reports Mr. Haroutun Yessayan moved not to read the individual reports already typed and sent to the members. Mr. Khatchig Kouyoumjian seconded the motion which was subsequently passed by the Assembly.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:-

- a) Mr. Garo Deirmenjian wanted to know the membership dues amounts of the 18-25 year old members. Chairman Barkev Khojajian replied that it was \$ 15 per annum.
- b) Dr. Shake Tokmanian requested further information about the Diocesan Council meeting in Toronto on July 13, 1979 and about the informative meeting of April 17, 1979. In his reply the Chairman pointed out that Diocesan Council meetings are often held in individual parishes, that this was an accepted procedure and he gave some of the details pertaining to our parish. The April 17, 1979 informative meeting was about the turmoil created in our community by Bishop Aris Shirvanian and "Holy Cross Church", a church that was not authorized by the Diocese in New York.
- c) Mr. Edmund Artin read a preprepared statement about the turmoil that occurred during 1979 in our Community and the abuse undertaken by the present Parish Council, specially our chairman Mr. Barkev Khojajian. Chairman Hrant Souin ruled the statement out of order.
- d) Mr. Haig Missakian inquired as to why four Toronto Armenians went to Paris last year to meet our Vahapar, His Holiness Vazken I. Mr. Barkev Khojajian replied that they were sent there by the Parish Council to clarify and represent our side of the community problems as previously another group had gone to the Holy See. The group included two parish councillors, the , the chairman of our school committee and a member of the church relocation committee. They were well received by the Catholicos who sent His blessings to our community. He also stated that neither the Primate nor the Diocesan Council had approved the sending of the delegation.

In further details Mr. Hagop Yeretsian informed the Assembly that they had carried the signatures of 700 community members with them and that the Vehapar was pleased to get a complete picture of our community.

Mr. Torkom Zabounian thanked the staffs of Nor Serount monthly magazine and the new community telephone directory for the commendable work that they are doing.

Mr. Jirair Yeretsian noted that a special banquet celebration held on April 22, 1979 for the Lebanon Relief Fund was not mentioned in the report and requested the inclusion of this event in the report.

Mr. Alexan Baltayan moved to accept the report of the Parish Council with a motion of appreciation. The motion was adopted unanimously.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:-

Mr. Alexan Baltayan presented the report of the nominating committee. He reported that the committee tried hard and contacted over 62 members for various positions but unfortunately they could not find enough volunteers as candidates to have duplicate status.

Chairman Hrant Souin then declared the nominations open for the positions of Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates.

Messrs. Sam Orchanian, Garo Hovagimian, Minas Selyan and Mardig Papazian, all of them stressed the need for more volunteers.

Mr. Sam Orchanian accepted to be a candidate for the nominating committee while Mr. Mourad Bahoudian accepted to be a candidate as a Diocesan Delegate.

After Chairman Hrant Souin asked three times if there were any further candidates for each positions from those present and no more volunteers would come forth, he announced the nominations to be closed.

The following members were elected to count the ballots:-

Mrs. Suzan Mangoyan
Mr. John Hovagimian
Mr. Khatchig Kouyoumjian
Mr. Alexan Baltayan
Mr. Sarkis Dekermenjian
Mr. Mardig Papazian
Mr. Neshan Manjelian

The elections then were held.

The following are the candidates and subsequent to election, the ballots received. IIS members participated in the balloting.

PARISH COUNCIL - Candidates and results

Mr. Madat Mamourian	94	Votes
Mr. Nubar Tossounian	93	"
Mr. Barkev Khojajian	91	"
Mr. Hratch Shishmanian	80	"

Four candidates to be elected, therefore all four were declared elected.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 5 to be elected

Mr. Minas Selyan	102	Votes
Mr. Torkom Zabounian	97	"
Mr. Hratch Boyajian	90	"
Mr. Benny Ampagoumian	87	"
Mr. Yetvart Dokletian	75	"
Mr. Sam Orchanian	60	"

The first five were declared elected.

AUDITING COMMITTEE - 3 to be elected

Miss Anahid Mamourian	102	Votes
Mr. Gregory Kasparian	102	"
Mr. Levon Yazejian	102	Votes

All three were declared elected.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES - 4 to be elected

Mr. Hrant Souin	98	Votes
Mr. Bedros Kokorian	75	"
Mr. Levon Yazejian	69	"
Mr. Torkom Zabounian	57	"
Mr. Mourad Bahoudian	46	"
Mr. Benjamin Mamourian	42	"
Mr. Krikor Elmassian	40	"

The first four were declared elected.

While the ballots were being counted the following reports were discussed:-

WOMEN'S GUILD

Mr. Arthur Selyan commended and praised the Ladies "MASS" Committee.

Mrs. Siroum Hamamjian again reminded the assembly about the need for a Senior Citizen's complex in Toronto area .

Mr. Haig Missakian commended Mrs. Arax Karan, the Chairlady of the Women's Guild for her leadership role.

Mr. Krikor Elmassian requested information on the Women's Religious Subcommittee. It was explained that Mrs. Shoushan Deirmenjian presented short speeches on Religious subjects during the Ladies' meetings. Mr. Jirayr Pederian suggested the printing of those presentations in NOR SEROUNT magazine.

This report was moved and adopted by the assembly with appreciation for their annual activities .

ACYOA

Our youth organization has 45 members. Mr. Bedros Kokorian noted that since few years they have formed a new dynamic team. They are even participating in sports events and winning trophies.

Mr. Shahan Deirmenjain inquired about ACYOA Winter weekend religious retreats. He was informed that this program will restart next year.

Mr. Hrant Souin noted that the ACYOA members volunteered to sing Christmas Carols on Jan. 5, 1980 Christmas Eve, but only 20 families signed up for it.

The current ACYOA Chairman Mr. Berj Basmadjian asked that they encourage their children to be members of this organization.

The ACYOA report was moved and then adopted by the assembly unanimously.

ST.SAHAG & ST.MESROB ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Mr. Sam Orchanian noted that the Armenian books (textbooks) were too complicated for the children born in North America and that there were too many difficult Armenian words for the age group involved.

Rt.Rev.Vazken Keshishian stated that the textbooks were prepared under the auspices of the Diocese by competent Armenians and that they were good textbooks.

Mr. Krikor Elmassian praised highly the school committee and the teachers staff and noted that the student enrollment has surpassed 250.

Mr. Minas Selyan wished to know why students are not going to Armenia anymore.

Mr. Hratch Shishmanian pointed out the financial burden on the parents.

The school report was moved and adopted unaniamously.

CHURCH CHOIR

Rt.Rev.Vazken Keshishian clarified the status of the Komidas Choir in our Church. This Choir participates in Sunday Mass at the end of the Month. At this moment they are being associated with the Holy Cross Church but whenever they become the official choir of that church and later officially recognized by the Central Council of Choirs then forward relationship can be established between them and our Church Choir.

Mr. Setrak Adourian expressed his appreciation of the Junior Choir.

This report was moved and adopted unanimously.

SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Mr. Haig Missakian noted that the Executive Committee members were not mentioned in the report. Perhaps in next year's report they will not forget to report, it. The report was moved and adopted unanimously.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Mr. Sam Orchanian noted that the attendance at Sunday School is quite low and that the standard of the school is not at par. Rt. Rev. Vazken Keshishian informed the assembly that around 25 students attend the classes on Sunday mornings regularly and that the problem of attendance is due to our own unchristian attitudes towards our church. Constant improvements were being made and he appealed to the parents to bring their children with them on Sunday mornings regularly.

Mrs. Arax Karan expressed her appreciation to the school principal Miss Alice Kouyoumjian.

The report was moved and adopted unanimously.

JUNIOR ACYOA

This report was moved and adopted unanimously as presented.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

This report was moved and adopted unanimously as presented.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

This committee noted that about \$ 10,000.00 was constantly deposited in a non interest bearing account. Their report was moved and adopted unanimously.

Financial Reports

It was noted that at the end of 1979, The Babayan Estate Holy Trinity Armenian Church Fund was \$ 373,958.45. This sum is under the discretion of the Parish Council and the Babayan Foundation will release the funds for the stated purpose.

Mr. Bedros Kokorian recommended the expenditure of more sums for the purpose of maintaining the church.

Some 8,300.00 is being kept in a non interest bearing bank account because this sum belongs to the Constantinople Patriarchate and the Council expected the transfer of this fund any time. That is why it was not interm deposit funds. The Assembly told the transfer would occur soon.

Mr. Ohan Kouyoumju, one of our auditors recommended that the membership dues to be collected be recorded as accounts receivable.

Mr. Haroutume Yessayan suggested the paid services of a professional accountant is preparing our financial statements.

The Financial reports were moved and adopted unanimously.

The proceedings of the assembly ended by the prayer of Rt. Rev. Vazken Keshishian at 11:00 P.M.

Secretary (English)

Jirair Yeretsian

Jirair Yeretsian

President & Rector

Vazken Keshishian
Rt. Rev. Vazken Keshishian

Chairman

Haant Souin
Haant Souin