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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY, HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH, TORONTO  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1983 - 2:00 pm.

The meeting convened at 2:45 pm. Father Houssig Nishanian presided over the Parish Assembly, and offered the opening prayer.

There were 92 members present, representing a quorum.  
SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN greeted the parish members and invited HRATCH BOYAJIAN to present on behalf of the nominating committee names of officers for the annual Parish Assembly:

VARTAN VARTANIAN	Chairman
MONA SELYAN	English Secretary
HAIG MISSAKIAN	Armenian Secretary

All present were in favour of the presented officers.

VARTAN VARTANIAN made a speech of welcome and advised that all requests must be made in writing, and that there would be no smoking during the meeting.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN made the announcement that Sero Khanzadian, a prominent writer from Soviet Armenia, would be coming to the Church Hall at 7:30, and that we would have a short reception for him.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN made a request to the chair that the report of the auxiliary bodies be presented before the Parish Council elections.

TAKVOR HOPYAN wanted the architect's report to come after the Building Committee report. It was defeated.

HAIG SELIAN stated that the architect's report should not be in the church auxiliary bodies reports, as it is a professional report.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN stated that the architect's report should be in new business.

TAKVOR HOPYAN said that he should speak after the building committee report as there are personal affronts to his character in the report, and this may alter his chances for election as a delegate.

SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN said that there should be special meeting for this purpose.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN stated that the architect's report is a separate professional entity, and should be treated as such.

VARTAN VARTANIAN clarified that there were 2 questions regarding the architect's report:

- Should it be included in the meeting after the Building Committee report?
- Should it have a separate meeting?

The count was 36 for, 45 against, deciding that it should remain as is, with the agenda to be changed: item 9 to come after item 6, and items 12 and 13 joined as one item.

JIRAYR YERETSIAN asked how many members were present - 107 at 2:58 pm.

MONA SELYAN read the minutes of the 1982 Annual Parish Assembly.

MR. YEPRANNOSSIAN stated that the minutes should be read in Armenian also.

VARTAN VARTANIAN, the chairman, noted that the report should be prepared in two languages next year, Armenian and English; and that is why we have two language secretaries.

There was discussion as to whether 1982 Parish Assembly votes were printed correctly. To confirm, Haig Missakian read his list which he had from the 1982 Parish Assembly.

KHATCHIG KOUYOUMJIAN moved to accept the minutes of the 1982 Parish Assembly. MADAT MAMOURIAN seconded. All were in favour.

(131 members were present at 3:45 pm.)

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN read the Parish Council report and also read an additional letter from Haig Missakian, who has diligently prepared an itemized list of the Church belongings. This should come in very handy in case a claim is to be presented to the Insurance company.

GARO MARTIN wanted to read the draft agreement between Armen Ontario and the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Building Committee. The Chairman suggested to reconsider it with the Building Committee report.

HRANT BARDAKJIAN stated that there were two items in the 1982 Parish Council report that occurred in 1983, and as such should not be included.

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN countered by stating that they were not covered in detail, as so should stay in the 1982 Report.

Chairman VARTAN VARTANIAN suggested not to enlist any function that occurred in this year.

MRS. SELIAN stated that the draft agreement between Armen Ontario and the Church was to be mailed out to the parish member before today's meeting - why was it only going to be read?

MOURAD BAHODJIAN wanted to clear the point that the Church's lawyer, Mr. B. Papazian was volunteering his time to the Church, and that it should be clear that he is working for free.

BENJAMIN MAMOURIAN made two points: a) pg. 15 - Bishop Varjabedian is a Bishop, not an Archbishop. b) pg. 16 - The Catholicos' award to Dr. A. Geunjian is "Nersess Shnorhali", not "St. Gregory the Illuminator."

HRANT SOUIN asked for details regarding what the Parish Council has done to look for a (new) permanent priest.

SAM ORCHANIAN asked if there was a financial problem with the Church.

KRIKOR ELMASSIAN asked what the normal salary for a priest in the U.S. is.

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN said that it was \$14,000. base salary, + Parish size, + \$6,000. to \$7,000. housing subsidy, + transportation + miscellaneous.

MRS. SELIAN asked how we can afford to pay out 3½ million dollars for a new

Church, and not an additional \$2,000- \$3,000. for a new priest.

HAIG SELIAN said he was sure that the parish could pay even \$7,000. more for a full-time priest.

HRANT SOUIN asked that the minutes of the Special Parish Assembly (regarding the new Church and Church land) of one month ago be read in the assembly.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN moved that the minutes of the Special Assembly meeting be read at the following assembly, in a sequential manner. It was seconded, and all were in favour.

JEAN HOVAGIMIAN moved to accept the 1982 Parish Council Report as amended. YEZNIG BOYAJIAN Seconded. All were in favour.

The financial report was read by the treasurer, HAROUTIOUN YESSAYAN, with explanations of vague areas.

SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN questioned \$1,500. for accounting purposes - (professional accountant ) saying that \$1,500 from last year and \$1,500 from this year equals the membership of 30 people.

HAROUTIOUN YESSAYAN said that he did not think Sarkis Dekirmenjian wanted information, but just wanted to harass him.

SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN asked that that remark be noted, and that Haroutioum Yessayan had no right to personally name him in that fashion.

The treasurer then offered the explanation that the \$1,500. was for professional accountant that were brought in to clear up discrepancies from past years.

JIRAYR YERETSIAN questioned \$80,000. on pg. 33 - the difference in the Babayan Foundation (monies for the building fund) in one year.

The treasurer explained that that money was interest for one year.

LEVON YAZEJIAN questioned \$171,000. for the Church from the Babayan Foundation.

The treasurer explained that that money is in trust, and cannot be used unless there are two signatures from the Parish Council, and two signatures from the Babayan Foundation.

TANIEL ZAROUKIAN questioned pg. 33 "New Church Project" regarding \$15,159, and what it was for.

The treasurer explained that the costs involved were a) severance b) architect's fee c) the scale model and other miscellaneous costs.

HRANT SOUIN questioned the long-term pledges and received pledges (\$21,000.) and where they show. Further questions were put forth by Levon Yazejian, Anais Orchanian, S. Semerjian and Betty Ounjian.

Arshalouys Kandaharian stated that the Armenian Saturday School turned over \$10,000. from the Babayan Foundation to the Parish Council, which does not show in the records. There was a recommendation made that the \$10,000. show in the Parish Council budget.

There was a question regarding the salaries of the office employees - (\$12,307.)



Was there no increase in pay for the employees? It was advised that the raises would come in April.

HAIG SELIAN read the Auditing Committee report.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN moved to accept the 1982 Financial Report, JEAN HOVAGIMIAN seconded. All were in favour.

SAM ORCHANIAN questioned the Clergy's Salary - \$15 - \$16,000. Is this for a temporary priest or a permanent one? The salary for clergy should be budgetted according to what the parish wants.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN recommended that a clergyman be chosen by the Parish Council then brought up at a meeting with the salary requirements.

HRANT SOUIN asked that the 1983 budget be more realistic, for example listing \$25 - \$27,000. for the Clergy's salary.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN said that the Parish Council has been instructed twice to actively look for a priest and has not done anything, with only the explanation that they do not have enough money.

SETRAK ADOURIAN stated that it is essential that we get a young, energetic, English-speaking priest for this parish.

HAIG SELIAN noted that we had been through this last year.

ALICE SELIAN asked for the names of nominees for the job of priest.

VARTAN VARTANIAN reminded the assembly that we were on the subject of budget.

BENNY AMPAGOMIAN asked why there was a difference in travel expenses in the budgets.

The treasurer explained that there was a difference because not all functions are attended by Parish Council members.

SAM ORCHANIAN stated that the clergy's salary budget should be changed from \$16,000 to \$25,000.

BETTY OUNJIAN asked why there was such a discrepancy, and where the Parish Council would get the money.

The treasurer said the difference was because of incidentals.

SARKIS KUYUMJIAN asked why nothing was done to look for a permanent pastor for the last two years.

SHAKE TOUKMANIAN moved that a vote be taken regarding the Clergy's salary budget. MONA SELYAN seconded.

HRANT SOUIN moved that the clergy's budgetted salary be raised from \$16,000 to \$25,000 for 1983. SAM ORCHANIAN seconded. All were in favour.

The 1983 Financial budget was accepted as amended unanimously.

HRANT SOUIN read the Delegates' Report.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN asked what the Diocese's stand was on the Holy Cross (dissolved) Church.

Delegate HRANT SOUIN advised that any attempt to have a Church service under the name Holy Cross was illegal in the eyes of the Diocese as that church had been dissolved by the Primate.

SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN pointed out that on pg. 20, regarding the Primate, it should read "Primate of the Eastern Diocese and Canada."

JEAN HOVAGIMIAN moved to accept the Diocesan Delegates' report as amended. KRIKOR ELMASSIAN seconded. All were in favour.

The Building Committee report was read by BARKEV KHOJAJIAN.

TANIEL ZAROUKIAN pointed out that the A.G.B.U. paid \$63,000., not \$73,000. for their project.

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN attempted to give a stand against the report, which he said was more a critique of the Parish Council than a report.

VARTAN VARTANIAN called Barkev Khojajian to the podium to give an explanation of the report, and Building Committee problems, advising the assembly to stay calm, and not to take things personally, as names would be given.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN gave his explanation, incorporating correspondence to and from the Building Committee.

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN gave the Parish Council's explanation.

TAKVOR HOPYAN, Architect, gave his explanation of the transpiring, clarifying minimizing of the building, fee structures, etc. He also had prepared extra copies of "Explanation and Complementary Notes for Proposal Between Church and Architect." which were put at the disposal of the general assembly members.

BARKEV KHOJAJIAN said that the Building Committee had requested that report three months prior, and had received nothing.

VARTAN VARTANIAN suggested that a Special Parish Assembly be called to discuss the New Church building.

TORKOM ZABUNYAN suggested that the purpose be broadened specifically to include Armen Ontario / Holy Trinity Armenian Church dealings.

HRANT SOUIN suggested that the Special Assembly be within the next two weeks.

SETRAK ADOURIAN suggested that the Special Parish Assembly be the following Sunday (March 12 being the deadline to sever the land from A.G.B.U. land with the Borough of Scarborough.)

TANIEL ZAROUKIAN said the severance deadline date cannot be extended.

SOSSI BOYAJIAN suggested that if the deadline must pass, then the Church can re-apply with the Borough of Scarborough.

HRANT SOUIN reminded the assembly that any agreement made regarding the new Church must meet with the approval of the Diocesan Council and the Primate,

who meet once a month, therefore we cannot meet Scarborough's deadline.

SHAHAN DEIRMENJIAN suggested that the severance deadline could be extended.

HRANT BARDAKJIAN pointed out that A.G.B.U. has nothing to do with the deadline or the extension of it.

KHATCHIG KOUYOUMDJIAN suggested that we postpone the elections and continue with the Church building discussion.

HAIG SELIAN suggested that the Special Parish Assembly regarding the proposed new Church building be postponed until the 2nd Sunday hence. HAROUTIUN YESSAYAN said that the Parish Council will make the draft agreement between Armen Ontario and the Holy Trinity Armenian Church available at the meeting, and would ask the Primate to send an authorized delegate from the Diocesan Council.

HAIG SELIAN said the Diocesan Council will not do this.

HRATCH SHISHMANIAN said that since we have left this matter for two years, we can ask for more time now.

SETRAK ADOURIAN noted that members would be busy at a cultural presentation the following Sunday at 7:00.

SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN moved that the Special Parish Assembly regarding the new Church building, agreement between Armen Ontario/ Holy Trinity Armenian Church, deed, sale, etc. be left to the near future.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN seconded.

SARKIS TCHILINGIRIAN recommended to strike the first and last paragraphs of the Building Committee report, and change the figure \$188,760. to \$160,000.

The Building Committee report was tabled until the Special Parish Assembly.

The Armenian Saturday School report was moved to be accepted by JEAN HOVAGIMIAN, seconded by SHAKE TOUKMANIAN. All were in favour. A word of thanks was given by Torkom Zabunyan.

YEZNIG BOYAJIAN moved to accept the Sunday School report. SETRAK ADOURIAN seconded. All were in favour. Hrant Souin suggested that a word of thanks be given to the Sunday School for income received from the sale of new Church building pins.

YEZNIG BOYAJIAN moved to accept the ACYQA report. BENNY AMPAGOUMIAN seconded. All were in favour. Sarkis Tchilingirian gave a word of thanks.

HRANT SOUIN, MONA SELYAN AND SARKIS KUIUMJIAN made statements that the ACYQA needs more support than the poor support it is receiving now from the parish members.

YEZNIG BOYAJIAN moved to accept the Womens' Guild report. TAKVOR HOPYAN seconded. All were in favour.

KRIKOR ELMASSIAN moved to accept the Church Choir report. YEZNIG BOYAJIAN seconded. All were in favour. Hrant Souin asked if it was acceptable that a clergyman from a sister church come and try to direct the Church Choir every Sunday.



Deacon Vartan Vartanian advised that when the Choir Master is not at the Church, he is trying to help.

Ballots were distributed by Sarkis Dekirmenjian and Harry Ampagoumian. HRATCH BOYAJIAN gave an introduction and advised the procedure of filling out the ballot forms. They introduced the Parish Council nominees, inviting them to stand and be recognized.

TAKVOR HOPYAN expressed his amazement that his name was not on the delegates' nominee list, as he had submitted his name to the nominating committee several weeks prior.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN explained that the nominating committee removed his name from the ballot because since he was being paid as Church architect, there might be a conflict of interest.

TAKVOR HOPYAN said that he had spoken to Mr. Stoneson, secretary of the Diocese, and was advised by him that there is no conflict of interest in this case.

KRIKOR ELMASSIAN asked that his name be deleted from the delegates' list.

HRATCH BOYAJIAN then recommended that Krikor Elmassian's name be taken off the Delegate's nominee list, and Takvor Hopyan's name be inserted.

Chairman VARTAN VARTANIAN read the names of the members present and ballots were brought to the head table and inserted into the ballot box by individual members.

At this time, the famous Armenian writer Mr. Khazdian came into the hall and Hratch Boyajian introduced the honorary guest. He took the podium and spoke about his publications and our heritage. He thanked everyone for this opportunity and congratulated the members for their deliberation. With a round of applause, he left the Church hall.

There was a written motion that the agenda and reports prior to Parish Assemblies be mailed out to the parish members before the assemblies. Hratch Boyajian seconded.  
By MR. M. BAHODIAN

There was a written motion by SARKIS DEKIRMENJIAN that all parish assembly decisions be forwarded to the Diocesan Council within four weeks, taking into consideration that they will be accepted in four weeks. Also, that the minutes from the prior assembly be sent out at the latest, the first week of February.

There was a written motion by HRATCH SHISHMANIAN that Holy Trinity Armenian Church organize and take part in only religious April 24 observances, not political or cultural. After much discussion on this subject, with interjection from Father Houssig Nishanian and the Chairman, a vote was taken, with only four in favour of the motion, therefore it was defeated.

VARTAN VARTANIAN gave thanks to all who made this assembly easy to preside over.

YETVART DOVLETIAN thanked the Chairman for presiding over the assembly so well and asked for applause.

SHAHAN DEIRMENJIAN suggested that this meetings' minutes and new Parish Council member list be forwarded to the Diocese no later than March 15, 1983.

MARDI PAPAIZIAN suggested that this year, the Parish Council should appoint someone as treasurer who is not in any other committees, and who will be able to do the job alone (thereby saving the parish \$1,500.)

Treasurer HAROUTIOUN YESSAYAN countered by saying that he really had problems in correcting the errors made in past years, and whoever takes his position will have a much easier time of it.

The ballots counted were as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL (126 votes)

Bette Ounjian	90	
Shahan Deirmenjian	84	
Leo Khosrovian	79	ELECTED
Madat Mamourian	77	
Haig Missakian	70	
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Sarkis Tchilingirian	63	
Berj Toughlouian	52	
Harry Ampagoumian	45	
Sarkis Karakashian	22	

Canadian Delegates

Hrant Souin	104	3	YEARS
Benjamin Mamourian	89	"	"
Haig Selian	86	"	"
Barkev Khojajian	80	2	"
Hratch Boyajian	76	"	"
Alexan Baltayan	69	1	YEAR
Sarkis Tchilingirian	56	"	"
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Mourad Bahoudian	55		
Takvor Hopyan	49		
Madat Mamourian	36		
Garo Martin	34		
Haroutioun Yessayan	32		

U.S. Delegates

Minas Selyan	97
Levon Yazejian	67
Bedros Kokorian	50
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Sarkis Dekirmenjian	48
Sam Orchanian	34
Mourad Bahoudian	30
Nishan Manjelian	15
Haroutioun Yessayan	8

The Nominating Committee and Auditing Committees were appointed, as the minimum number of people were running for those positions. (see ballot form)


Benediction by Reverend Father Houssig Nishanian was given at 10:30 pm.



President

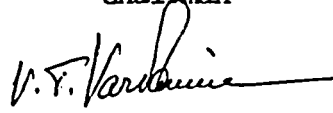
Fr. Houssig Nishanian

English  
Secretary



Mona Selyan

Chairman



Vartan Vartanian

Armenian  
Secretary

Haig Missakian