

17 Avon Road  
Binghamton, NY 13905

June 4, 1987

His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
630 Second Avenue  
New York NY 10016

Your Eminence:

Enclosed is a copy of the minutes taken at the last  
St. Gregory Armenian Church Parish Council Meeting, held  
on May 27, 1987.

This is the first parish council meeting called, since  
March, 1987. In light of recent events occurring here in  
Binghamton, I felt it necessary for you to be informed as  
to the content of this meeting.

Best wishes,



A. Kachadourian, M.D.  
Corresponding Secretary

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES - May 27, 1987

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM at an office in the Metrocenter Mall, Binghamton, and not at St. Gregory Armenian Church.

Present: Dr. George Rejebian, Luke Sarkisian, Dr. Vahe Garabedian  
Mr. Deron Kradjian, Dr. Aristakes Kachadourian, Mr. Hagop  
Injajigian, Mr. John Bogdasarian.

Absent: Kevork Papazian

No opening prayer was given and no agenda was prepared.

1. Father Sooren Chinchinian's letter was discussed, including his salary and his final check of \$1486.66, which he returned. This check only covered through May 15, 1987 - three days shy of his official date of termination of May 18, 1987. It was decided that Father Sooren should be paid \$1635.32 as his final salary payment.
2. Father Sooren claimed that the parish council owed him \$500. for the years 1985 and 1986. However the treasurer claimed that Father Sooren accepted \$750. from the parish toward his IRA, as payment in full. Therefore, the \$500. payment was rejected by parish council.
3. Parish council voted that no further allowance for Social Security be paid other than \$500. per year. This amount had been given already, therefore, parish council voted not to pay anything more toward his Social Security.
4. Parish council agreed that Father Sooren is entitled to a one-week paid vacation. Amount - \$371.66.
5. Parish council voted to pay the printer expenses for the Sunrise publication for April and May, 1987.
6. The total demand by Father Sooren was \$3476.60. Parish council approved \$1635.32 plus \$371.66 - total - \$2006.98.
7. George Rejebian then brought up the subject of the changing of the locks on the church doors. Dr. Kachadourian was asked to start the discussion. He stated that "on May 19, 1987, Alice Bogdasarian with the aid of a locksmith, changed the locks of the church. She is not a member of parish council. Later John Bogdasarian appeared at the church ". Neither of these two persons had the consent of parish council. Dr. Kachadourian continued to say that "I contacted Kevork Papazian, Hagop Injajigian, Luke Sarkisian and Dr. Vahe Garabedian. These four parish council members and my self knew absolutely nothing about this act". It was stated, therefore, that parish council had absolutely nothing to do with this disgraceful and shameful act.

George Rejebian stated that the locks were put on the doors "to prevent the priest from entering the church and to perform Badarak on Sunday".

He also felt that this would prevent trouble and an inflammatory situation. Dr. Kachadourian said, "you mean the locks were put on the doors to lock an Armenian Priest out of an Armenian Church"? George Rejebian said, "yes". Dr. Kachadourian stated that eye witnesses saw Alice and John Bogdasarian and the locksmith change the locks on the church doors. In fact, two locks are now on each door of the church. John Bogdasarian refused to say anything.

Dr. Kachadourian angrily stated that the locks were totally unnecessary, and that Badarak could never have been performed for a number of reasons:

1. Father Sooren would have violated a direct order from the Archbishop, which stated that all of his duties terminated on May 17, 1987.
  2. Badarak can only be performed in any Armenian Church with the consent of parish council.
  3. Only parish council can reimburse a priest for performing Badarak.
- Therefore, Dr. Kachadourian again repeated that the priest could not have performed Badarak. George Rejebian reinstated that the locks were put on because he did not trust this priest. He was afraid the priest would perform Badarak.

Dr. Kachadourian pointed out that parish council members have no idea what activities go on in the church almost every night of the week. He stated that the Armenian Church choir, Armenian Church Language Classes, St. Gregory Armenian Church Youth Group (A.C.Y.O.A.), and Sunday School, consisting of 12 children. Dr. Kachadourian challenged the entire parish council if they could tell him what night the choir rehearsal takes place. Not one parish council member knew the answer. Dr. Kachadourian told them what night it takes place. George Rejebian said they could practice in someone's home. Dr. Kachadourian said "without an organ".

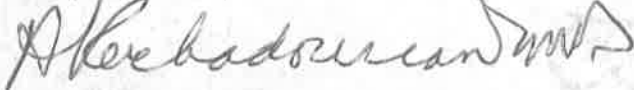
Deron Kradjian accused people of splitting the church. He didn't care what activities were going on or not going on in the church. He didn't care who put the locks on the church or why they were put on. John Bogdasarian was accused of splitting the church by many of his acts.

George Rejebian mentioned that Adrienne Kachadourian and Gus Kurjilian called him after this act of changing the locks occurred. They questioned who gave Alice and John Bogdasarian the authority to carry out this act? George Rejebian stated that the majority of the parish council approved that the locks be changed on the church doors. Dr. Kachadourian again stated that the majority of the parish council members knew absolutely nothing about the locks being changed. Continuation of activities in the church were discussed also by Adrienne and Gus and George Rejebian said to try to have them "somewhere else." Because the nature of the phone conversations were argumentative, he felt compelled to put the locks on the doors. He was reminded by Dr. Kachadourian that these conversations took place after the locks were put on the doors. Dr. Kachadourian said that this was totally unnecessary, since the locks had been changed about 1½ years ago. George Rejebian reiterated his distrust in the priest. Dr. Kachadourian said, "your ill-feeling is greater than your interest in the functions and activities of our church".

George Rejebian formulated the notion which Dr. Kachadourian made. The notion

George Rejebian formulated the motion which Dr. Garabedian made. The motion states, "In order to prevent the priest from coming into the church to perform Badarak and in order to prevent an inflammatory situation or any trouble from occurring in the church, the locks are to remain on the church doors and the keys will not be distributed until the parish council deems it in the best interest of the church". The motion was passed 6-1. The majority of parish council members were not entrusted with a key. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



A. Kachadourian, M.D.  
Corresponding Secretary