

ST. JOHNS ARMENIAN CHURCH

1996 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PARISH COUNCIL

PROPOSAL II

**PROPOSAL:**

The Diocesan Assembly directs the Diocese to amend the Diocesan By-Laws, paragraph No. 6 from:

"Every member of the Parish, 18 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) Church an annual due, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased by the Parish Assembly."

to read:

"Every member of the Parish, 18 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) Church an annual due, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased by the Parish Assembly.

**Every member of the Parish, that has attained the status of 'Honorary Church Member', would be exempt from paying annual dues and shall also constitute as a member in good standing provided both Sections A and B of this Article have been meet."**

**A. To be at least 77 plus years of age**

**B. Having 45 plus total years of Church membership with any Armenian Church, of which at least 10 years of Church membership (in good standing) has been with their current Parish in the Eastern Diocese.**

**RATIONAL:**

The Diocese made up by its dues paying members should establish a mechanism by which recognition and honor should be bestowed upon their untiring senior members for their near half century of dedicated service to the Church. The recognition and honor bestowed upon these seniors for their many years of devoted service would come at a time in their life when they can least afford to financially participate fully.

Though individual Parish's today can bestow "Honorary" titles and privileges upon its members, the right to fully participate at annual General Assemblies would be denied as defined by Diocesan By-Laws, paragraphs No 5. 6 and 7. We as practicing Christians, should establish policies which are fair and equitable for both Diocese and all of its members.