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THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF
HOLY RESURRECTION

11 Erwin Place
New Britain, Conn.

February 13, 1955

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1954

The duly confirmed members of the parish council held their first meeting March 1, 1954. Elections were held and the council organized as follows:

Chairman	Stephan Der Margosian
Vice Chairman	Arthur Simonian
Secretary	Harold Kevorkian
Treasurer	Hurach Azarigian
Advisor	Paul Abrahamian
Advisor	Jack Yagoobian
Advisor	Harry Azarigian

The retiring members were Nick Mazadoorian, Charles Vartanian, and Harry Sarkisian.

The parish council thanks Mr. Nick Nazadoorian and Mr. Charles Vartanian for their conscientious service as secretary and treasurer. Their orderly records were great aids in the work of the new council

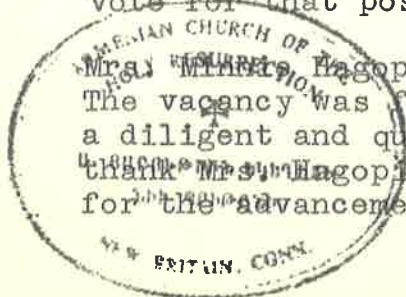
Meetings:

During the year your parish council conducted -

- 17 parish council meetings
- 2 parish council meetings with the executive board of the ladies aid
- 1 parish council meeting with the Sunday School teachers and the choir executive committee
- 1 preliminary parish assembly

During the year the parish council regretfully accepted two resignations. Mr. Eli Der Bagdasarian duly elected auditor by last year's parish assembly resigned from that capacity. The vacancy was replaced by Mr. John Bogosian who had received the next highest vote for that position.

Mrs. Minnie Hagopian resigned as supervisor of the Sunday School. The vacancy was filled by Mr. Arthur Simonian who has carried on in a diligent and qualified manner. The parish council wishes to thank Mrs. Hagopian for the years of conscientious service she gave for the advancement of the Sunday School.





Parish Priest:

The parish assembly of January 1954 passed the decision to request a list of candidates from the Primate from which a permanent parish priest could be chosen for our parish. This request was made of the Primate and is to be kept active until a conclusive arrangement can be made for a permanent parish priest. The Primate has not had a list of candidates available to date.

Meanwhile our parish began this year's work with The Very Reverend Isahag Ghazarian serving as temporary parish priest. Services were held every two weeks. On April 25, 1954 the parish council notified the Primate that as of that date Reverend Ghazarian's tenure as temporary parish priest should be considered terminated. After a complete review of the circumstances of our parish by a representative of the Diocesan Council the action was approved by the Diocesan Council.

In order that our parish would not be deprived of its spiritual needs arrangements were made with the parish council and priests of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in New York to have Father Alan Potookian celebrate the Divine Liturgy in New Britain once a month. We were fortunate to receive splendid cooperation from the authorities of St. Gregory the Illuminator parish in this matter and the arrangement was carried on until August of 1954. Your parish council thanks St. Gregory the Illuminator Church for their assistance.

In order to keep our Church open every week further arrangements were made with our deacons and choirmaster to have morning services conducted every week even though there would be no clergy. Their voluntary service in helping their church is most commendable. Your parish council wishes to officially thank Mr. Ghevont Der Margosian, Mr. Lazar Manoogian, Mr. Sarkis Azarigian, Miss Sarah Yagoobian, and all our choir members for providing the inspiring services each week. The parish council wishes all to fully realize the immeasurable spiritual and monetary gains these individuals have afforded our Church.

On August 2, Reverend Ghevont Khosrovian was invited to conduct services here and perform the grape blessing ceremony at the annual Church picnic.

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NEW BRITAIN, CONN.



In September Archbishop Mampre Calfayan visited New Britain with The Very Reverend Muron Gourdjikian. After an introductory meeting with the parish council it was mutually agreed that Father Muron would serve as temporary parish priest of New Britain. As Father Muron is serving Bridgeport in the same capacity it was agreed that he would serve New Britain every other weekend.

Since accepting the position of spiritual head of our parish Father Muron has shown active organizational and constructive ability. His personal qualities exemplify the finest qualities of his order.

Besides celebrating the Divine Liturgy every two weeks, Father Muron has performed the sacraments whenever necessary. Visitations have been made to the sick and to any needing spiritual consultation.

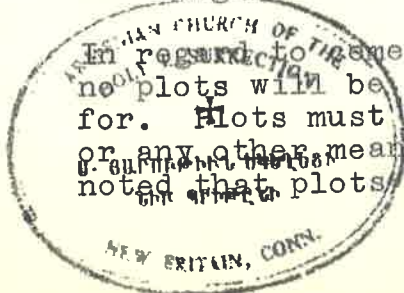
He has taken great strides toward correcting old church records and bringing our baptismal, wedding, and funeral records up to date. His work presently is hindered due to the limited time he has during each visit to our parish; however, with his guidance and counsel the coming year should prove even more fruitful for our parish. The parish council wishes Father Muron good health and success in the coming year.

Cemetery and Deeds:

At the start of this year our church had not received the deed to the latest cemetery property purchased. Your parish council considered this matter most urgent as title to all our properties must be transferred to the Armenian Diocese. Several meetings were held during the year with the cemetery superintendent concerning this matter. We now have the deed to the new property and several complete and accurate maps of our entire cemetery. In the near future title to all properties under the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection Incorporated will be transferred to the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Again the parish council reminds all who have cemetery plots to remove all trees and shrubs. Arrangements have been made with the cemetery superintendent to keep our cemetery well groomed; however, all large shrubs and trees must be removed.

In regard to the cemetery plots all parish members must understand that no plots will be considered reserved for anyone unless fully paid for. Plots must be purchased by cash payment in full. Word of mouth or any other means is not adequate reservation. It should also be noted that plots are not transferable.



Maintenance:

As our church presently does not have a permanent janitor the parish council has filled this vacancy by doing the maintenance work itself. The vital problem of having the building heated was solved by Miss Henrietta Boghosian's accepting the responsibility of turning on the heat when necessary. For this we are grateful to her. This arrangement has proved satisfactory to date; however, a permanent janitor is necessary and future parish councils should attempt to obtain a qualified person if possible.

The dirt which had been accumulated on our land was leveled off thereby providing considerable additional parking area. The leveling was done by Mr. Archie Blaire who was contacted by Mr. Edward Simonian. Realizing the financial condition of our church Mr. Blaire did the work gratis. The parish council wishes to express its appreciation to Mr. Blaire and Mr. Simonian. Although there is much to be done with the land this was a step toward our goal.

Additional maintenance projects done by the parish council were:

1. The fence on the adjoining land was repaired and the property generally cleaned up.
2. The church stairs were repaired where the mortar had broken.
3. The doors and front cross of the church were painted.
4. All lights in the church proper were replaced where necessary and the three large chandeliers completely cleaned.
5. Due to the large unrecorded number of keys in distribution the locks were changed on the doors. Keys are now registered and signed for.
6. A major hall cleanup project is still in progress. All old remnant furniture was disposed of after first being offered to our parish members. The cellar was cleared and painted. Additional plans for this project are to reset and finish all chairs, build dollies and store all chairs and tables in the cellar, refinish the hall floor, install hangers to hang curtains for Sunday School classes, and other minor repairs.

Proper upkeep of our properties is of utmost importance as neglect will inevitably mean costly repairs at a later time. Your parish council has done the best it can in its spare time; however, this type of maintenance is very slow and not adequate. Our building is in need of major and minor repairs. Some major repairs which must

be attended to before long are: pointing of the exterior, reinforcing the roof, electrical repairs, and repairs of doors and stairs. These are all major costly items and must be attended to. The parish council suggests that future parish assemblies and parish councils give attention to this vital maintenance problem and devise organized plans to meet the needs.

Additions and Improvements:

In addition to the improvements mentioned under maintenance the following additions were made to our Church through the generous contributions of the faithful donors.

1. One complete set of vestments donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Garabedian of Chapman Street.
2. One devotional candle stand donated by Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis Grigorian of Locust Street.
3. One set of communion spread and Bible holder donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Garabedian of Tremont Street.
4. One chalice donated by Mr. and Mrs. Levon Azarigian and son Harry.
5. One stained glass window of St. Mathew donated by Mr. Simon Simonian of Waterbury.
6. Lighting was installed around the picture on the main alter. This work was done by Mr. Charles Onanian and the costs were paid for by the Ladies Aid.
7. Rental of a P. O. Box. In order to insure safe receipt of all church mail this year our Church rented a P. O. Box. All Church mail received is now addressed to P. O. Box 122.

In regard to the stained glass windows the parish council wants the donors to understand that every effort is made to expedite their installation. During the year the Luther Studios in Paterson, N. J. makers of the windows were contacted at an average of once every two weeks. Besides our contacts they were called several times by Archbishop Calfayan. Their latest promise was to have everything completed by February 1955; however, to date they have installed one more window and repaired one broken one. There are still two more windows on order which we hope will be installed before long.

The parish council wishes to sincerely thank the donors of the gifts mentioned and hopes such generous practices will always remain and grow among our parishioners.

Church Programs:

This year the church had one profit making affair and two public lectures.

On August 2, 1954 the Annual Church Picnic was held at which time the grape blessing service was conducted and a \$259.10 profit was realized from this affair.

Our parish was fortunate to have Archbishop Calfayan visit our parish upon his return from Armenia. At that time a public lecture was given by His Grace concerning his travels and Father Muron was introduced to the congregation.

We were again fortunate to have a visitation by Bishop Terenig Poladian of Antelias. Arrangements were made so that His Grace celebrated the Divine Liturgy and gave a public lecture with films in the evening. A collection for the seminary in Antelias netted \$128.00. At this time our parishioners should know that once each year a plate will be passed in church for the benefit of the Antelias seminary.

Church Organizations:

The church organizations will give their own detailed reports; however, your parish council wishes to briefly make its acknowledgement to them.

We are again fortunate to have our church organizations working for the betterment of our church. Our thanks to our Ladies Aid who always willingly serve the needs of our church. Their assistance comes in many forms; however, we at least wish to acknowledge with thanks receipt of their annual \$200.00 Christmas donation.

The parish council expresses its gratitude and commendation to the Armenian School teachers, the Sunday School teachers, the choir director, organist, and all members of the choir for their voluntary services toward developing the children of our parish.

Our members should understand the importance of these young people's organizations. Each parent must feel a Christian responsibility to encourage his child to take part in these organizations.

The parish council sees the need for three additional organizations for our church.

1. Weekly religious school.
2. Reorganization of the A.C.Y.O.
3. Establishment of an organization to encompass the age groups of 25 to 45 years.

We sincerely hope that future opportune times will permit the establishment of these programs.

Other Church Operations:

Our church has operated normally throughout the year. Regular services and sacraments were performed. A forty day mourning period was observed for the passing of His Holiness George VI.

Circulars have been sent regularly and church notices placed in the local paper.

Your parish council has met all the demands upon our church both personal and administrative and has always tried to represent our parish in an honorable and constructive manner.

The needs of the parish have been met through visitations and communications. *

Membership:

Presently our church has ~~119~~¹²⁵ paid members through 1954. Efforts will be made to increase this amount. We wish to make known that at the time of last year's parish assembly our church had 113 paid members. Successful efforts were made to collect the delinquent dues so that the 1953 paid total is now 141.

Finances:

Our records at the end of 1954 show that our treasury has gained \$433.03. Recently \$1,000.00 was transferred from our checking account to our savings account so that we can take advantage of the interest applicable to it.

Unfinished Business:

1. Transfer of title of properties to the Armenian Diocese.
2. Settlement of Father Alan's medical expenses with Hartford.
3. Complete hall cleanup project.

Recommendation for action by this assembly:

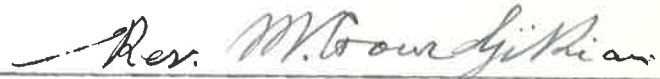
That a pledge system with a \$5.00 minimum be adopted as the method for membership. This is a proven plan already in use by many parishes in our Diocese and it is most imperative for the future welfare of our Church that we adopt such a plan.

Conclusion:

We have concluded another year of service. An active year which we believe has been another progressive year for our parish. The condition of our parish is good. It is sound but not sound enough that we can risk haphazard activities. In a small parish such as ours progress is made slowly and cautiously; however, as long as we are moving ahead we are sound. Your parish council wishes to remind all our membership that the activity you see and hear in the annual reports are only brought about by the membership itself. It is up to each of us as members of the Armenian Church to accept our responsibilities as members and fulfill our obligations through cooperation, contribution, attending church regularly and doing everything possible to maintain a harmonious and progressive parish. It is only through this that our church will grow fruitful and healthy and we as individuals will do likewise.

Your parish council recommends that future parish councils take steps toward presenting a program for building a parish house, remodel the church, and beautify our property. These are vital needs and all parish members must accept these needs by cooperating with future parish councils toward bringing these hopes to successful realities.

We wish to sincerely thank the many individuals not mentioned in this report for the many ways they assisted in our work throughout the year. This report is respectfully submitted for approval by this assembly February 13, 1955.



The Very Reverend Muron Gourdjikian
President, Parish Council



Stephan Der Margosian
Chairman, Parish Council



Harold Kevorkian
Secretary, Parish Council