

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION
11 ERWIN PLACE, NEW BRITAIN, CONN.

REV. FR. VARTAN DER ASSADOURIAN, PASTOR

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1968

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY ON JAN. 26, 1969

1. PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

At the first parish council meeting on February 5, 1968, the members of the newly formed council were elected to their respective offices as follows:

Chairman	Monoog Bagdigian
Vice-Chairman	Edward Simonian
Secretary	John Maljanian
Treasurer	Given Hoosigian
Pledge Custodian	Peter Egazarian
Advisor	Harry Azarigian
Advisor	Peter Bagdigian, Jr.
Advisor	Donald Cole
Advisor	Charles Vartanian

It is noted that due to the personal problems of some of the Parish Council membership, the Council operated with an active membership of six people, who increased their own personal sacrifices to perform the necessary work for the functioning of your Church.

2. MEETINGS

- (a) Eleven regularly scheduled monthly council meetings were held to handle the routine business of the council.
- (b) Three special council meetings were held with Hartford for purposes of planning and organizing our joint church picnic.
- (c) On March 17th, the parish assembly voted to request the Diocese to appoint Fr. Vartan Der Assadourian as our priest. We also approved at that meeting the formation of a committee to look into the feasibility of merging the Hartford and New Britain churches at a central location.

- (d) A special council meeting was held with the Primate upon the occasion of his visit for our 27th anniversary celebration.
- (e) A special meeting was held with representatives of the New Britain Council of Churches. This meeting was requested by the Council of Churches to enable them to explain to us the work they are doing in the community.
- (f) The regular special membership meeting was called after church on October 13th to elect the nominating committee that makes the preparations for the elections to be held at this Parish Assembly.
- (g) On November 16th a Regional Conference of Parish Councils was held at St. George's Church in Hartford with Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate, conducting the meeting. Representatives from Springfield, New Britain, and Hartford were present. Purpose: Better communication between Churches and the Diocese.
- (h) An open membership gathering was held on November 21 between the membership and City Officials including Mayor Manafort to explain the rehabilitation Program of the City which offers us an opportunity to relocate our church after selling the current property to the city.

3. CHURCH ENTERPRISES

The Parish Council planned, organized and conducted the following affairs in the course of the year.

(a) 27th Anniversary Celebration

The Anniversary Banquet was held on Sunday, June 30, 1968 in our Church Hall. In spite of the heat, there was a good turn out. Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate was present. Total donations were \$1,332.00.

(b) ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

The picnic was held on August 25th jointly with St. George's Church of Hartford. Once again, the joint venture was a success and each Church realized a profit of \$669.00.

(c) CATHEDRAL VISIT

On October 6, 1968, our parishoners enjoyed services at the Cathedral given by our parish priest, Fr. Vartan Assadourian. The visit was a success and enjoyed by those who attended.

(d) VEHAPAR'S VISIT TO NEW ENGLAND

On May 26, 1968, Vehapar celebrated Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, Mass. at which time, Fr. Vartan participated in the services. Harry Azarigian served as usher. Many of our members were present. The same evening, we attended a banquet in Boston given in the Vehapar's honor.

(e) MISSION "68"

A group headed by the Very Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian and his four disciples visited us from July 19th thru the 26th. The program was successful and enjoyed by those who attended, especially the children. The program also included the exchange of pastors with the Union City Church on Sunday, July 21.

(f) WELCOME PARTY

On November 1, 1968, our church gave a welcome party to Fr. Vartan and his family after establishing residence here. Refreshments were served by the Ladies Aid and the family was presented with a gift.

4. MAINTENANCE

The regular minor maintenance requirements of the Church were met. In addition, the following items are noted and were made possible through the efforts of Parish Council and Church members.

- (a) The Parking Lot was measured and marked off with painted lines to facilitate parking.
- (b) The sidewalk in front of the Church was completely torn out and replaced with a concrete sidewalk and curb.
- (c) The parking lot area was swept and the adjacent grounds were completely trimmed of brush and cleaned of trash.

5. PUBLICATIONS

Circulars have been mailed as necessary to keep the Parishoners advised of major church activities and all church meetings.

The "Looy's" is published on a regular bi-monthly basis by the Trustees and A.C.Y.O.A. We remind you that the content of "Looy's" is determined by what articles are submitted by the reporters of the various Church Organizations.

Hurach Azarigian has been appointed Reporter from our church for the Diocese Publication "Armenian Church". He also is coordinator with the Diocese to pass information to our community through the "Looy's" and local newspaper.

6. SACREMENTS

In the course of the year, the following sacraments were performed:

Weddings	1
Baptisms	2
Funerals	2

7. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

To be a member in good standing of this Parish one must, according to our bi-laws, pledge \$1.00 per week to the Church or a lesser amount with the Parish Council and Parish Priest approval under the "exemption" clause in the bi-laws as it applies to hardship cases.

We present below a three year summary of the pledge and membership status for our Parish.

Three-Year Summary 1966-67-68

Pledge per week	Number				1966	1967	1968
	1966	1967	1968				
\$.20	0	0	1				
.25	5	8	6	Total Pledges	75	81	89
.30	1	2	1				
.50	14	17	14	Total Income	\$5,152	\$5,382	\$5,608
.75	1	1	1				
.80	1	1	0	Voting Memb.		82	101
1.00	27	24	28				
1.15	1	1	0	Non-Voting Memb.		<u>42</u>	<u>27</u>
1.25	1	1	1				
1.50	1	2	2	Total Members		124	128
2.00	13	13	12				
2.25	1	0	0				
2.50	2	1	2				
3.00	4	7	8				
3.25	1	1	0				
4.00	1	1	2				
5.00	1	1	1				

Note that with the increase in voting members from 1967 to 1968 the non voting membership decreased. This was caused primarily by efforts on the part of the Trustees to get eligible non-voting members into voting membership status by encouraging applications under the exemption clause of our bi-laws. We also note that there is no evident trend on the part of the membership to increase the level of pledges.

As we have said in past years, we would like the high school and college graduates to take part in and join the Church. The parents are the ones that are best able to perform this duty.

Outstanding pledges at year's end are approximately \$533.00. We ask all that owe back pledges to bring their payments up-to-date. The Church must meet its financial obligations, the payments of over half of which come from pledge income.

8. FINANCES

The Auditors' report will cover this item in great detail.

9. 1969 BUDGET

The proposed 1969 budget is attached for reference and discussion when it is brought up as New Business.

10. CEMETERY

The cemetery situation has stabilized. An elevated highway will pass over the northwest corner of the cemetery causing loss of some burial plots, however, no graves will need to be moved.

The cemetery on the other hand has agreed to replace these plots by providing an equivalent number of additional plots adjacent to our current burial area. The Trustees have also agreed that these additional plots be expanded to include 36 plots which we own in a remote area of the cemetery. We have then turned the 36 plots back to the cemetery commission. This transaction is now complete.

The road area surrounding our burial grounds was also paved this past year, thru the efforts of Edward Simonian.

11. PRINTING FACILITIES

Thanks to the Ladies Aid, your Church has good printing equipment. Thanks to Peter Egazarian (who donated his time) we have a new cabinet in which we can store this equipment and the necessary supplies.

To make the best use of this equipment and to take care of it we need a person who will assume the responsibility of Printing Supervisor. We will then have one person to whom we can go to to get all our printing done. This person would also be responsible for mailing lists for various mailings and be sure they are kept up to date.

The Trustees have been performing this function in addition to their other duties. We do however, feel that we could serve the Parish better if one person were available that all church organizations could go to to get their printing done.

12. INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Parish Council in coordinating activities with your Investment Committee has this past year asked that no investments be made by the committee at this time.

The intent was to keep the assets of the Church in the bank and available while we were engaged in considerations of a joint church with Hartford and while we are even now considering the Rehabilitation Program by the City.

In the future, after our situation stabilizes, there is no reason that this effort cannot continue with the availability of funds.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) Council of Churches

At the special meeting held with the Council of Churches representative, they stressed the requirement that they increase our assessment dues to their increased scope of activity. Our current donation is \$100.00 annually. They have requested that we increase this to \$150.00. Your Parish Council recommends we maintain our donation of \$100.00.

(b) Pledge System

The Parish Council, as in the past years, invites the membership to consider its controversial pledge system and provide an opportunity to discuss and/or improve upon it. The Parish Council recommends we try the "Steward System" as suggested by the Primate. We repeat, that the Parish Council does not make the system, we just administer it.

(c) CHURCH SITE REHABILITATION PROGRAM

At this meeting, under new business, we will discuss this program in great detail. We have the option of having the city buy our current church property in which case we must obtain property and build a new church. Although the Parish Council cannot make this decision, the council membership is in favor of action to sell our current church and build a new church on a new site.

Respectfully Submitted
for the Parish Council

Monoog Bagdigian

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Chairman