

1920 N. W. 129 Terrace
Miami, Florida 33054

April 10, 1972

Mailed from Miami on May 11, 1972 (P.O. stamp)
Received on May 15, 1972

His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian
Church of North America, and
President of the Diocesan Council
620 N.E. 2 Ave.
New York, N.Y.

His Grace:

We are prompted to write this letter, as concerned members of St. John The Baptist Armenian Apostolic Church of Miami, and resident Armenian members of this community.

We know you are aware of our problems, therefore do not wish to go into too much detail. To get to the problem, we are quite upset about the recent decision of the Diocesan Council to elect an entirely new Board of Trustees for our Church.

This no doubt was brought about by your good judgement to settle our problem, but what it has done in reality has brought more dissention to our Armenian community.

At our last Parish Assembly meeting, which was to be for elections of new trustees, an outburst resulted from the problems that have been brewing for months. Our objection at this meeting, was to the Ballot that was presented to the members to vote upon.

For the following reasons:

1. The names on the ballot were people that were elected in previous years with proper votes, and they themselves immediately resigned, after winning a legitimate election. Specifically: John Ohannesian, Jack Marsoopian and Bedros Azarian. James Pilafian also won in the previous election, but resigned after serving 3 months. Consequently, the person with the lowest number of votes that did not win, became a trustee.
2. We object to the name of Mary Kulhanjian appearing on both the Nominating and Auditing committees, when she is already serving as Chairman of the Ladies Auxilliary.
3. The nominating committee did not ask, or place on the ballot any of the men who previously served as trustee, nor did they ask any of the men whose present term was expiring. It appears if only as a matter of courtesy, this could have been done, but they wanted to assure themselves of winning, by not putting on any names, other than those that were chosen by Hiar Soorp Intoyan, who is presently serving our church on a temporary basis.
4. No nominations were permitted to be made from the floor, by the order of Hiar Soorp Intoyan. For the above reasons, and after much discussion and

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membership's confusion, a motion was made by Jack Marsoopian and seconded by Mrs. A. Mozian that we do not have elections of trustees until another meeting could be held and that the question of whether nominations from the floor were legal and some of the confusion of the balloting could be ironed out. A vote was then taken and passed by a vote of 27 FOR, 10 AGAINST. The Chairman then said we would postpone the elections. Another motion was then made to adjourn the meeting and the membership accepted.

We then awaited the decision from the Trustees, but they had no power at all, as it was solely in the hands of Hiar Soorp Intoyan. We then receive the decision from the Diocesan Council electing the new Board of Trustees. We were notified of this by mail. A cover letter written by Hiar Soorp Intoyan was sent to us along with the letter from the Primate. It was written in Armenian only, and needless to say there are many members who are unable to read Armenian.

It is unbelievable to us, that the Diocese elected to accept this ballot as being proper, and named the Trustees on their own. It is a sad time for all of us and the Armenian Church when a legitimate election cannot be held according to our Church by-laws, and the power is in the hands of one Priest. For the Diocese to sanction such an action is most heartbreaking and depressing.

We cannot believe that His Grace who visited us a short time ago, made no effort to discuss this with all the members of the church. May we now ask what is the purpose of being a "dues" paying member?

We are all members of the Church and we do not have to pay dues to go to Church. But we do, according to the by-laws, have to pay dues in order to be able to vote, and have a voice in who is to serve as a trustee to represent the majority of the people. All dues paying members consider this an important aspect of our church and this privilage has been taken away from us, by the highest office of our church in America.

We urge and request the Diocese Council to reconsider the action they have taken. WE urge and request the Diocese Council to send a representative to us, to have a general meeting under his jurisdiction, with all members of our church. The Miami church has been a problem to your office and perhaps you do not care about what is going on down here, but the fact remains it is a very important matter to the undersigned, and we are looking for a decent and respectful way to solve this unhappy situation.

Further, kindly refer us to the article in the by-laws that gives the Primate or the Diocesan Council the right to elect Parish council members to a local church? Article G, page 15 specifically gives this right to the dues paying members of a parish. Please reply to Jack H. Hagopian, Chairman of the Parish Assembly meeting of January 27, 1972. 1920 N.W. 129 Terr. Miami, Fl. 33167.

Respectfully,

(Signatures attached)

Members of St. John The Baptist Armenian
Apostolic Church of Miami and
Members of the Armenian Community of the
Greater Miami Area.

Jack Hagopian

cc: Board of Trustees, St. John The Baptist Armenian Apostolic Church of Miami
1501 N.E. 1 Ave. Miami, Fl.

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF GREATER MIAMI

Հրահրէր Տարեկան Անդամական Ընթրողական Ժողովի, որ տեղի պիտի ունենայ Յունուար 20, 1972, թինգշաբթի երեկոյ ժամը 7:30ին, եկեղեցւոյ սրահի մէջ: Մանրամասնութիւնը տես վարը Անգլերէնի մէջ: Թեկնածուներու անուանացանկը պիտի տրուի ժողովի մէջ:

INVITATION TO ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION

The annual assembly of our church will take place on Thursday, January 20, 1972, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 120 N.E. 16th st., Miami. All dues paying members are urged to attend. The following is the AGENDA for the meeting:

- 1.-Registration.
- 2.-Election of the "tivan" for the meeting
- 3.-Annual reports of parish council, Ladies Auxillary, etc.
- 4.-Election of the parish council members and the other committees
- 5.-The budget of 1972
- 6.-Old and New items.

The Nominating Committee has prepared the slates for the election

FOR PARISH COUNCIL

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1-Bedros Azarian | 4-Zarouhy Kasparian |
| 2-John Ohannesian | 5-Jack Marsoopian |
| 3-Diran Moomjian | 6-Albert Masarjian |
| 4- | |

FOR AUDITING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1-Mrs. Sahatjian (perminant) | 4-Hosrov Gabrielian |
| 2-Mary Kulhanjian | 5-Adrine Mouradian |
| 3-Arene Atamian | 6-Nishan Onanian |

FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1-Alice Atamian | 4-Dicran Basralian |
| 2-Flora Baldadian | 5-Shake Pilavian |
| 3-Mary Kulhanjian | 6-Nazaret Atamian |

The official ballot sheets will be distributed on the day of the Assembly. It is the duty of all members to be present and take part in the meeting. The church belongs to every dues paying member. Please come do your duty.

THE PASTOR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND PARISH COUNCIL
of
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
of
MIAMI, 1501 N.E. 1st Ave.

January 12, 1972

THIS COPY OF THE BALLOTING SLATE
WAS MAIL TO DUES PAYING MEMBERS.

BALLOT FOR ELECTION

According to our Diocese BY LAWS the understanding of election is as follows- Art.14-B and Art.61-D.,where it's very clear for nominating procedure.Let's us keep our Diocese BY LAWS intact;rules are made to be obeyed.

Candidates for the election of Parish Council.Vote only 4 names.

- 1.-Bedros Azarian [] 5.-Jack Marsoopian []
2.-John Ohannesian [] 6.-Albert Masarjian []
3.-Zarouhy Kasparian [] 7.-Tom Jafferian []
4.-Nazaret Atamian [] 8.-Nishan Onanian []

Candidates for election of Auditing Comm..Vote only 3 names.

- 1.-Mrs. Sahatjian(perminant) 4.-Hosrov Gabrielian []
2.-Mary Kulhanjian [] 5.-Adrine Mouradian []
3.-Irene Atamian [] 6.-Diran Moomjian []

Candidates for the election of Naminating Com..Vote only for 3 names.

- 1.-Alice Atamian [] 4.-Dicran Basralian []
2.-Flora Baldadian [] 5.-Shake Pilavian []
3.-Mary Kulhanjian [] 6.-Joe Kelljchian []

* * * * *

The Naminating Committee with another two members will count the votes,while the meeting continues and will inform the result.

Pastor and Naminating Committee

January 27,1972

THIS COPY WAS GIVEN TO THE DUES PAYING MEMBERS AT THE MEETING, WHICH WAS DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL & THIS CAUSED MOST OF THE CONFUSION.

