

Principles of...
...to be done...
...to be done...

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INTERNATIONAL ARMENIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

A proposal for an annual gathering of Armenian young people from sister Dioceses.

With creation of a Canadian Diocese, this is the last year in which the Canadian young people will be taking a direct path in the ACYOA assembly and sports activities. But there is no reason why there should not be a maintenance and strengthening of ties among the various youth organizations of our Church. Therefore, it is proposed that, starting in 1986, an international Armenian Youth Fellowship Week or Weekend be held. Initially, it would bring together young people from the Eastern, Western and Canadian Dioceses. But if the program of the sports events, conferences and seminars and socializing is successful, there is no reason why such an annual event could not be extended to welcome young Armenians from other parts of the world, from Europe, from South America, from Erevan and elsewhere. The week or weekend of fellowship, moving each year to a different Diocese, would be open to all young people of ACYOA age.

The annual gathering is an excellent means of building:

- a) strong ties among our youth,
- b) injecting youthful vigor into the affairs of the Church,
- c) building the profile of the Armenian Church Nationally and Internationally.

It brings together the strands of faith, health and fitness and culture in an open and inviting way, and with the expansion of the idea, would give North American youth more opportunity to come to understand the breadth and depth of the Armenian Culture around the world.

for several years
→ a whole week
→ Funding

ARMENIAN CHURCH PROFESSIONALS OF AMERICA (ACPOA)

A proposal for a continuation of ACYOA's work beyond youth and into adulthood.

At the present time, membership in the ACYOA is open-ended beyond the qualifying age of 18. Thus the membership aims and commonality of interest is ill-defined as members grow beyond an age at which they can be called "youths" or are even inclined to be.

Proposal:

It is proposed that membership in ACYOA begin at age 18 and end at age 26 (that is, when the member reaches his/her 27th birthday). It is further proposed that a new organization, following from ACYOA be formed tentatively called "the Armenian Church Professionals of America" (ACPOA), open to any members of the Church ~~27 years of age~~ and older.

The intention is that such an organization provides an outlet for the skills and abilities of our young adults, taking into account their growing pre-occupations with careers and family, and their need to perform services for their Church beyond what might be expected of "youth". The organization would be tacit recognition that a new generation is eager to assist in church affairs, to build on what their fathers and their fathers fathers have built, together in strengthening their faith in a modern and a relevant way. In addition, ACPOA would provide an opportunity to develop regional chapters, able to operate continuance programs and service work within their regions and providing a focal point for the energies of people who may feel they are growing beyond the concerns of ACYOA.

Minimum age of the new proposal, adulthood professional

open discussion

ACYOA - outstanding activities and services

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
PASSED AT THE 1989 ACYOA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - HOUSTON, TEXAS**

General Proposals

1. To rename the Armenian Studies Program: In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's ordination, the Armenian Studies Program will now be known as the Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Armenian Studies Program. Additionally, four scholarships will be established (one in each region), with the amount being determined by the ACYOA Central Council.
2. The Central Councils of the ACYOA, ACYO-WD, and ACYOC shall do the following:
(a) exchange names and addresses of Council members and chapter chairpersons;
(b) send all Diocesan-wide mailings to the Central Council members and chapter chairpersons of each Diocese (indicating whether or not the activity is open for Inter-Diocesan participation); and (c) meet at least once a year or have a teleconference.
3. The Central Council shall appoint a committee to develop guidelines and instructions for the 75th Commemoration of Armenian Martyrs' Day.
4. The Central Council shall appoint a committee to organize a Diocesan-wide collection drive of specific items (toothbrushes, cough syrup, alka selzer - cold medicine, soap, blankets, hats, gloves, etc.) and prescription medications which would be collected and stored throughout the year and sent to Armenia to be personally distributed with the next Armenian Earthquake Relief Team (or ASP). Additionally, the committee would also be responsible for developing an operational plan to consolidate and store all supplies as well as insure that the recipients are trained in their proper use.
5. The Executive Secretary's office shall distribute quarterly press releases describing the current situation in Armenia as well as efforts ongoing in the United States.
6. The Sacraments and Prayers of the Armenian Church shall be republished. Any necessary assistance will be provided by the Cambridge ACYOA Seniors.
7. A "Bibles for Armenia" project shall be created in conjunction with the existing Diocesan plan. Each chapter shall conduct a fund raiser, specifically for this, and all proceeds from that fund raiser will be used to purchase Bibles written in Eastern Armenian at an approximate cost of \$5.00 per Bible.
8. An "Ecumenical Youth Fellowship and Dialogue" program shall be created to include mainstream Christian denominations such as the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Episcopal churches. The program should bring together two to three members from five to six area churches for an informal presentation/open forum-type setting.

9. A "Social Service Project" shall be held once a year by each chapter. The project shall be designed to be an investment of time and talent, not just a monetary investment.
10. It was recommended that we publish a series of "Bible Study Outlines" which reflect the teachings of the Armenian Church. These would be used on a parish or regional level and would be designed to include biblical passages, background information, discussion questions, a bibliography and resources.

Amendments to the ACYOA Constitution

The underlined sections within the body of each amendment indicate the changes within that amendment:

1. Article 11, Section 1: From among the members of the ACYOA, the General Assembly shall elect seven members to constitute the ACYOA Central Council. Only one person from any chapter may be elected to the ACYOA Central Council in any given year. The ACYOA Central Council term of office shall commence following the confirmation of the election by the Primate and Diocesan Council.
2. Article 11, Section 2: As the ACYOA Central Council terms of office expire, the vacancies shall be filled by members elected for two-year terms. If the total number of members of the Central Council is changed by amendment, the General Assembly at which the amendment is adopted shall decide how best to accommodate the change so as to keep alternate year elections as even in number as possible. No member shall hold office in excess of two consecutive terms.
3. Article 11, Section 4: In case of a vacancy in the ACYOA Central Council created by resignation or otherwise, the ACYOA Central Council shall invite the individual who received the next highest number of votes short of election at the last General Assembly to fill the vacancy to complete the term of office. In the event that the first alternate is unable to fill the vacancy, the second alternate shall be invited to fill the position. Should no alternates be available, the ACYOA Central Council shall select an ACYOA member in good standing to fill the vacancy with the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as the elected National Committee members.

A resolution was also passed with regard to the passing of His Grace, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, our founder and father. The resolution expressed the delegates' sympathies and sorrow to the Primate, all reverend clergy and members of Srpazan's family. It also called for the designation of an appropriate date in the near future, whereby all chapters would be directed to sponsor a program in their respective parishes to recognize and highlight the life of the late Primate and his efforts on behalf of the Armenian Church and his accomplishments in the United States.