

December 15, 1967

Mr. Stephan Saxenian,  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. George, Armenian Church  
Houston, Texas.

Dear Mr. Saxenian,

In answer to your letter of December 10, 1967 in regards to your having a celebrant of Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the Feast of Vartanants, I would like to inform you that Fr. Arakelian will be with you on February 25, 1968 and celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

As to a proper program of Vartanants, it seems that you must ask somebody to speak on that day. Together with the speaker you may have some recitation and singing, perhaps a violin or piano will add weight to the program. There are plays of Vartanants, but that is a big project for which you need a longer time. But you may consider this for next year or so. If you need some recitations or songs write to me or to Fr. Arakelian.

May we wish you good luck and success for every step that you and your parish council takes in service of the Community.

With blessings

Bp. Vasken Kebreslian  
Vicar General

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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December 10, 1967

Very Reverend Bishop Vasken Kebreslian  
Vicar General  
630 Second Ave  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Very Reverend Bishop Kebreslian,

We thank you for your letter of November 27, 1967.

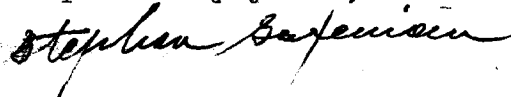
We had the occasion to discuss again in our last Parish Council meeting about the Church services and we all agreed to have this on Vartanantz during the month of February 1968.

To make it a success we hope we can count on your guidance for suggestions for an appropriate program. If possible, we will try also to have at the same time a cultural program.

Due to our special situation in Houston Texas we would suggest that the Divine Liturgy be held on Sunday and not Thursday.

Father Levon Arakelian is well aware of our situation and problem and he also ~~he~~ had the occasion in helping us organize several of our past affairs. If he were not available for our proposed date, we would appreciate any other arrangement you could make.

Respectfully yours,



Stephen Saxenian.

c.c.- Father L. Arakelian

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*Feb. 25*

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 12/7/1967

Were present at this meeting all members except Mr. Hekimian. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A letter of Father Arakelian was read concerning the proposed Church services for immediately the week following the Armenian Christmas. Owing to the reasons advanced in our previous meeting it was decided to postpone Church services for the month of February and do these on the occasion of Vartanantz. An official letter will be addressed to that effect to the Vicar General, since this as explained to us is the right procedure, with a copy to Father Arakelian. If the latter is not available at that date, may be some one else could replace him according to general arrangements made by the Diocese for visiting priests. Due to our situation the Church service should be held on Sunday and not Thursday and all other details could be arranged ultimately.

The treasurer Mr. K.S. Gregory gave a report on our financial situation. The special account (or Bldg account) stands now with a balance of approx. \$ 3,000.00. Our regular account has only \$ 151.00. As this will not be enough to pay for our monthly expenses and mortgage payments the Council agreed on making a loan and transfer from the special account to the regular account for the amount of \$ 1,000.00. This was acknowledged being done against our will there being no other alternative, since our monthly regular income through donations and pledges has not improved yet.

The winner of our first prize, the Mustang car, was in Houston last week and through Mr. Hekimian an acceptable and convenient settlement was made. We had issued a check of \$ 2,150.00 in lieu of the car and by this arrangement we had saved approximately \$ 300.00 in case he had to buy the car for the winner.

We only have as an outstanding bill to pay still in connection with the November 4 affair, and that is the Warwick Hotel bill for the amount of \$ 550.00. As discussed previously we are going to handle this to Mr. Leon Harrison with the hope that he may get a discount. On this occasion the Council agreed to authorize Mr. Leon Harrison to go ahead with the project of Bingo games. These could be organized for the beginning on a once a month basis. An amount of up to \$ 75.00 has been approved to take care of expenses comprising items and necessary material.

*Zaven Kirksharian* (to be continued)

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continued

(Minutes Parish Council meeting 12/7/1967)

In order to have more than one fund raising activities we could think later on other events that could help us do so. For the time being as suggested by Mr. ~~Chanian~~ and approved by the Chairman it would be advisable to hold gathering of people for cultural purposes without any admission fee. This would help keep people interested in our Church and Center. To help organize such events Mr. Ohanian will write to New York, Father Arakelian, for movies and other items necessary for our cultural programme.

A circular letter of Bishop Torcom was read concerning the Public Relations Representative. It was decided to nominate Dr. Anahid Harrison if she would accept and we are going to approach <sup>her</sup> to that effect. In case she does not accept we will have to think of someone else.

A discussion erupted about the New Years Eve party affair. The chairman explained that he had been approached by the Houston Armenian Womens Assc. about that event and that these ladies had wished to organize that evening with all proceeds going to our Church. They had sent letter to advise us about this and their plans for the benefit of our organization have been outlined in the Parish Council meeting of 10.5.67. At that meeting the Council had decided to accept this proposal for similar evenings. Messrs. Bardoony and Sanjakian opposed this and presented a counter proposition to refuse this privilege to the H.A.W.A. and instead have the party be organized by the Church Auxiliary. On further discussion it was learned that the Church Ladies group, having had many dissensions among themselves and particularly the policy of refusing and not accepting to be more liberal towards the armenian community as whole, had their members dwindled to one or two. This as a result of their disagreement with the Chairwoman of their group. Under these circumstances and because it will be a gross error for the future success of our organization the Chairman insisted that the organization of the evening be trusted to the first group. Also because as he explained <sup>that</sup> the Council nor he, had never been approached ahead of time of any such activity by Mrs. Rose Sanjakian (Chairwoman). It is not acceptable that on every occasion after all arrangements and commitments made Mrs. Sanjaki an would come with a decision and this will come too late to be accepted. Mr. Saxenian asked from Mr. Sanjakian that he obtains a list of dates of all events from Mrs. Sanjakian for the year 1968 in order to avoid discussions. A proposal of Mr. Hagopian for an evening in conjunction with the H.A.W.A. and Ladies Auxiliary was made. The chairman suggested to put to vote in order to get a decision on this subject. Mr. Bardoony turned this down commenting that he never had his way when it came to voting. The chairman said he did not see other alternative to his first proposal and if Messr. Bardoony and Sanjakian wanted that Mrs. Sanjakian was only given the

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*Zaven Kirksharian*

(to be continued)

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

continued

(Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 12/7/1967

right to go ahead and organize this event which because of her would attract a very limited number of people he would have nothing else to do but turn over to them the direction of the Council, all affairs and books. They would therefore be responsible of this situation and accept to take care of all commitments, financial included. Messrs. Hagopian and Kirksharian expressed also an identical opinion and said that <sup>they</sup> would also retire. Messrs. Baroony and Sanjakian made no comments.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Zaven Kirksharian*

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ADVISORS

April 5, 1971

Mr. Stephen Saxenian  
7534 Briar Rose, #42  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Saxenian:

We have been receiving the minutes and other material you have been sending, and we are very pleased to have them, since they effectively keep us apprised of your activities.

1) We do not think, however, that it is necessary to send such minutes to Mr. Harrison, who perhaps should not be bothered with all the details of discussion. It would be much better to provide him with periodic reports concerned with your parish's accomplishments, affairs, services and various activities.

2) The practice of turning 60% of the funds of auxiliary committees to the Parish Council must of course be followed by all such committees. The Church Building committee, however, cannot be considered in that category, since all its income goes for the purpose of paying off the mortgage.

This has been the rule in all our parishes, as well as in our Cathedral Project. Building Committees cannot be expected to turn over any funds for the operation of the Church; it is a special committee with a special purpose to which it must be permitted to dedicate itself and its resources.

Prayerfully yours,

Archbishop Torkom Manougian  
Primate

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 1971

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Members present at this meeting were Messrs. Y. Hekimian, H. Bardony, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, A. Hagopian, G. Keramian and J. Galoostian.

Mr. S. Saxenian had excused himself due to a sickness in the family.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Our financial situation as per Mr. J. Boyajian stands at \$ 1051.00 after payment of the current mortgage monthly payment.

We are waiting to hear from Mr. Sweet and the Title Co., with reference to the tax arrears and Mr. J. Galoostian will handle this matter as soon as sufficient information is provided to us.

Having learned that the payment of the 60 % from the treasury of the Ladies Aux. was being refused by the treasurer of that group Rose Sanjakian, the Council intervened to that effect. After explanation offered by Messrs Hekimian, Boyajian, Kirksharian that treasurer had to accept this, in conformity with the Primate wishes and the By-Laws of our Church.

It was decided to organize a layman's Palm Sunday service to be followed by a shish kebob party to be handled by the Ladies Auxiliary. This activity will be further discussed in our next meeting.

At the same time, we will also study Mr. Hekimian's report of pledges collected so far, dividing this responsibility and task among other members of the Parish. This question is the most urgent due to our lack of income.

To be able to take care of these imminent matters the Council decided to meet again the next Thursday, March the 11th at 5.30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Zaven Kirksharian*

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBR. 21, 1971

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Members present at this meeting were Messrs. S. Saxenian, Hrant Baroony, Yohannes Hekimian, Z. Kirksharian, Anton Hagopian, J. Galoostian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved after an addendum was added.

The treasurer Mr. Boyajian being out of town no financial statement was obtainable.

As suggested by the Primate, the minutes of the Council meetings will be also forwarded to Mr. Sam Harrison at the same time these are sent to New York. Mr. Harrison having shown concern about our organization will surely be interested. A letter, originally, will be mailed to home address together with copies of the minutes.

The council decided also, to mail letters to the Ladies Aux. and Building Fund asking them for payment of 60% of their balance at the end of 1971 as per instructions of the Primate contained in the minutes of our meeting of February 8, 1971.

Our Vartanantz activity was reviewed. This had gathered a crowd of approx. 75 people including children. The proceeds amounted to \$ 180.00 = exact figures with Mr. Boyajian. Considering this was a week day celebration the turn out was satisfactory. Letter of thanks will be mailed to the Ladies Aux. and Mr. J. Bedevian. In order to recognize the efforts of Mr. Bedevian we are going to organize a testimonial dinner in honor and members of the Choir. This will be organized by the Ladies Aux. on Sunday March the 7th at 6.00 P.M. Letter of appreciation and invitation to be mailed to Mr. Bedevian and other invitations by Mr. J. Galoostian. A gift to Mr. Bedevian will be presented to him on this occasion and this will be taken care of by Mr. Y. Hekimian.

The chairman stressed out again the importance of publicity. Publications should be made as often as necessary. To that effect a letter of information to New York will be mailed about roster of Armenians papers that we could also use for our benefit.

The pledge campaign by Mr. Hekimian is shaping out satisfactorily and a report to be presented immediately for planning the collections. Furthermore, Mr. Mantchulian will be approached by Messrs. Baroony and Hagopian and Mr. Geo Valian by Messrs. Saxenian and Hekimian.

(continued)

*Raven Kirksharian*



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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Febr. 21, 1971 (continued)

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The question of communications and publicity was again brought forth by Mr. Saxenian who suggested that Mrs Helen Hekimian be approached in order that she continues her monthly publication with Church subsidies as required. Messrs Hagopian and Galoostian to handle this matter. Until a decision is taken our Church's monthly "News Bulletin" will forcibly be discontinued. It is hoped that Mrs Hekimian will accept and by so doing will keep in close contact with us concerning the news items that we would like to appear.

We should go forward with plans for our future needs. Our expansion program comprises new buildings, a special savings account for such program. Armenian local architects as Messrs. Ohanian and Vartanian could be approached for rough drawings.

Concerning our future plans on religious and cultural fields, it was learned that the Primate before his departure had said that he was going to hand over to Mr. Boyajian his written instructions. These will include also an organization concerning youth activities.

Further inquiries about an old tax on the Church property going back to the year 1965 will be examined and made. This was postponed for our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Zaven Kerksharian*

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

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## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 11, 1971

Were present at this meeting Messrs. Y. Hekimian, Z. Kirksharian, J. Boyajian, J. Galoostian.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

After thorough examination of our pledge campaign it was decided that we had better call a general assembly of all Armenians. During this gathering we would probably find some additional help and volunteers in order to divide in groups the persons from whom we hope to get pledges.

The general assembly has been decided for Sunday March 28, 1971 at 1.20 P.M. A luncheon will be served ~~that~~ to all, free of charges. Mr. Hekimian accepted to donate the food mainly fried chicken, potato salad, soft drinks, Mr. Galoostian will provide the salads.

An invitation will be mailed to that effect to all members of the community, with details in general of the items on the agenda.

As far as the other activity, that is the Palm Sunday celebration this event also has been scheduled as previously decided.

A layman's Mass to be organized by Mr. J. Boyajian who will be in touch with ~~xxxx~~ Mr. Bedevian. A shish kebob party after the religious ceremony to be handled by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Invitations to this Church service and the party afterwards will be forwarded immediately after the mailing of the invitations of the General Assembly.

In the meantime we are starting sending statements to people who already have made pledges requesting payment of the dues.

The meeting was adjourned.

*Zaven Kirksharian*