



U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

DISTRICT DIRECTOR  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

August 4, 1966

IN REPLY REFER TO

A:R:EO:GAB

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
c/o Armenian Church of Houston  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Subject: Exemption from Income Tax

Gentlemen:

May we have a reply to our letter of May 4, 1966 ?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. L. Phinney".

R. L. Phinney  
District Director

PARISH COUNCIL

*Armenian Church of Houston*

1111 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

October 3, 1966

Reverend Father Arakelian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
of America  
New York, N.Y.

Reverend Father,

Please find enclosed letter of reminder from the Internal Revenue Service concerning the proposed amendment to our articles of incorporation as per our letter mailed to the New York Diocese on May 10, 1966.

We were under the impression that the diocesan attorney was going to handle this question. Now that the name to be given to our Church having been decided as St. George Armenian Church, this would facilitate the task.

Hoping to hear from you on this matter.

Yours very truly,

*Zaven Kinksharain*

*Submitted  
E. M. M. Yeghyan  
10/18/66*

November 2, 1966

Mr. Stephen Saxenian, Chairman  
Armenian Church Parish Council  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Saxenian:

Please be advised that His Grace the Primate, Bishop  
Torkom Manoogian will arrive in Houston on Friday, November 25,  
via Delta Airlines, Flight No. 915 at 4:59 p.m.

Sincerely yours,

Zabelle Ambariants  
Secretary

October 4, 1966

Mr. Stephen Saxenian, Chairman  
Armenian Church Parish Council  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Saxenian:

We appreciate your concern about the problems of our community in Houston, Texas, as you had mentioned in your letter to Father Levon Arakelian.

However, considering the fact that we have prepared the schedule of our official visits to the parishes of our Diocese, and that all weekends are taken until 1967 April, please be advised of the following arrangement:

The weekend of November 27 is assigned to Houston, Texas. Therefore, we intend to arrive in Houston on Saturday, November 26, 1966. In due time you will be informed of the details.

We expect first to meet with the Parish Council members sometime between 5-7 p.m. Then the public should be invited to meet with the Primate on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock. Light refreshments may be served. We are confident that this gathering will serve as an opportunity to disseminate information about church history and discipline; we may also have an informal conversation concerning the life and activities of the community.

For Sunday, November 27, arrangements should be made by the Parish Council for church services at any convenient place or church building. The announcement should remind the public to inform the Parish Council, if any person wishes to have a Requiem Service, or to receive Holy Communion, or to have his children baptised.

Der Levon Arakelian will accompany us, and from Houston we shall fly to Miami, Florida, to attend the National Council of Churches Triennial Assembly.

May God bless you and your loved ones and all the members of the community.

Prayerfully,

Bishop Torken Mancoegian  
Primate

November 11, 1968

Mr. Kegham S. Gregory  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. George Armenian Church & Center  
278 Maple Valley  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Gregory:

We are pleased to appoint the following for a term of one year as the Parish Council for the St. George Armenian Church in Houston, Texas:

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Messrs. Kegham Gregory | Chairman      |
| Hrant Bardouny         | Vice Chairman |
| Vartan Kosharian       | Secretary     |
| Mrs. Anahid Harrison   | Treasurer     |
| Steve Saxenian         | Advisor       |
| Andon Hagopian         | Advisor       |
| Jani Ohanian           | Advisor       |

With ability and imagination with a warm devotion to our Church, this Council, we are confident, will render exemplary service. We are, together with the Diocesan Council and our office staff, ready to aid you in any way possible.

We are deeply appreciative of the fine work done for our Church by the retiring members of the Council: Mr. Zaven Kirksharian, Mr. John Hekimian and Mr. Mike Sanjakian.

We wish also to appoint the following committees:

St. George Armenian Church Building Committee

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Messrs. Hrant Bardouny | Chairman  |
| Mike Sanjakian         | Treasurer |
| Kegham Gregory         |           |
| Vartan Kosharian       |           |
| Mrs. Rose Sanjakian    |           |
| Mrs. Anahid Harrison   |           |

St. George Armenian Church Ladies Society

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. Andon Hagopian         | Chairman            |
| Mrs. Anahid Harrison        | Vice Chairman       |
| Mrs. Vartan Kosharian       | Secretary           |
| Mrs. Rosemarie Kuchenbecker | Treasurer           |
| Mrs. Mike Sanjakian         | Assistant Treasurer |
| Mrs. Jani Ohanian           | Advisor             |
| Mrs. Serope Berberian       | Advisor             |
| Mrs. A. Sweet               | Advisor             |

May the Lord grant His blessings to your labors.

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN  
Primate

August 6, 1969

Mr. Kegham S. Gregory  
Chairman Parish Council  
St. George Armenian Church & Center  
Houston, Texas

Dear Mr. Gregory:

We have received your letter of July 30, 1969.

Because of the resignation of two members of the Parish Council, we hereby appoint Messrs. Hovhannes Hekimian, Zaven Kirksharian and Joseph Hovsepian to serve for two years.

We suggest you invite the following members to a meeting to serve on the Parish Council in the positions as indicated:

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Hovhannes Hekimian | Chairman  |
| Zaven Kirksharian  | Secretary |
| Joseph Hovsepian   | Treasurer |
| K.S. Gregory       | Member    |
| Steve Saxenian     | Member    |
| H.C. Bardoony      | Member    |
| Jane Ohanian       | Member    |
| Antone Hagopian    | Member    |

We appoint Deacon Dikran Metjian as President of the Parish Council and all Church Organizations. Deacon Metjian will serve as Spiritual Administrator of the parish for the period he will be residing in Houston.

May God bless all the members of our community to grow in His grace and to be fruitful in His service.

With blessings,

ARCHBISHOP TORKOM MANOOGIAN  
Primate

**GREGORY-EDWARDS, INC.**  
**MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS**  
1515 HADDON • P. O. BOX 13305  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77019  
523-6619

*Chair P. Boudry*

July 30, 1969

The Very Reverend Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, N. Y. 10016

Dear Archbishop Torkom:

Since the arrival of Deacon Dickran, matters are looking up somehow.

The Parish Council, with four members missing, met last week and the Deacon was invited. I also invited Mr. Hovhannes Ohanian and Mr. Hovsepian.

We went over the history of the parish and brought the deacon up to date. He seems to grasp matters easily and I gained the impression that he is not unfamiliar with the difficulties such as we are experiencing here.

Last Sunday the ladies had a coffee; the object being to acquaint the deacon with the community.

Here is the plan. Whether we can put it in operation remains to be seen. We would like and will help the deacon get a job and get situated so that he can work some and carry through with his studies. We are hoping that he can spare a little time each day to devote to furthering the interest of the church and center. This is the end we are working towards.

As I told you previously, I am not going to be able to devote as much time to church affairs due to my back trouble. I am therefore, going to suggest the following changes which I think are necessary to further the interest of the church.

I suggest that the composition of the Parish Council be as follows:

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Hovhannes Hekimian | Chairman  |
| Zaven Kirksharian  | Secretary |
| Joseph Hovsepian   | Treasurer |
| K. S. Gregory      | Member    |
| Steve Saxenian     | Member    |
| H. C. Bardoony     | Member    |
| Jane Ohanian       | Member    |
| Antone Hagopian    | Member    |

This, of course, is one more than is necessary, but Bardoony has not been to a meeting in four months and today he entered St. Joseph's Hospital. If he leaves the hospital and becomes active again, changes can be made then. You may also want to make other changes if the Deacon locates in



The Very Reverend Archbishop Torkom Manoogian      - 2 -      July 30, 1969

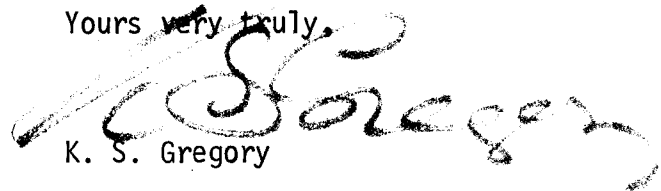
Houston permanently.

I have talked to Saxenian privately and to the rest of the new men. They have agreed to go along with the new plan if you approve it. If you do, then please write a letter to me to that effect so that I can put it in operation.

I hope this finds you in good health. Let me hear from you as soon as possible.

With best wishes.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K. S. Gregory', written over the typed name.

K. S. Gregory

KSG:ijt

P. O. Box 66322  
Houston, Texas 77006  
August 22, 1969

Mt. Rev. Torhom Manogian  
Diocese of The Armenian Church of America  
630 2nd Ave.  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Archbishop Torhom:

Though it has been sometime since I last wrote, I have thought of you often. A great deal has happened since I saw you here.

First, enclosed is a clipping from the newspaper in regard to St. George and its Pastor Rev. Metjian. I am very happy to note that Rev. Metjian has been assigned here and I plan to attend Divine Liturgy ofteh.

Mother's Brother passed away in March. Though expected since he had been ill for quite a while, it was still a shock. Monday before Mother's day Mother went out to play cards. As I picked her up she blacked out on me. We thought it was a stroke, but it was a lack of blood circulation that caused the blackout. Her eldest Sister visited with her on Friday. The next evening she suffered a massive stroke and died. It was quite a shock and for a few days we were concerned about Mother. She is okay now, but her illness has shown some effects on her health.

Celebrated my birthday April 20th with a Folk Mass in my home. Mother's 84th birthday was on the 14th and we had another Folk Mass in the Home and then out for dinner.

✓ | No, I never did receive the books that I asked you for earlier.

I have been greatly saddened the past ten days. Two months ago a young man from Yugoslavia came in for an Open Valve Heart operation. Though we couldn't speak each other's language, somehow with the help of Our Lord we came together. Love knew no boundaries and we became very close. He was doing quite well, but took a turn for the worst two weeks ago today, and died on the 11th. He called for me, and I was able to see him before the condition became serious. His death has been felt very deeply.

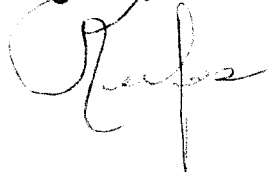
I'm not against anything that will help persons to live longer, but I do feel that there are many unanswered questions that must be resolved before there can be a 90 to 95 percent certainty that the operation will be successful.

I'm on my vacation. Had planned a trip, but didn't feel my heart would be in it because of the above circumstances.

It's hard I know to say just when you will return to Houston, but I do hope that when you do, we together with Rev. Metjian.

May the Grace of Our Lord Be With You Always.

Yours In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rufus".

July 29, 1970

Mr. Yohannes Hekimian  
Parish Council Chairman  
St. George Armenian Church  
c/o 5926 Schumacher  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Hekimian:

We wish to inform you that we have planned to visit our parish in Houston from November 27 to November 30, 1970. We hope this date is convenient for the Parish also, since it is the only available weekend for this year. You will be notified about the exact time of our arrival in Houston.

Please make the following arrangements and preparations:

1. On Friday, November 27, at 8:30 p.m., we shall have a meeting with the Parish Council to consider the programs and activities of the Parish Council and to discuss any arrangements pertaining to the same weekend and a long range program.
2. On Saturday, before noon or in the afternoon, we may pay visits to a few of our members if there are any in the hospital or are ill at home.
3. If possible, arrangements should be made with local papers or reporters for interviews and publicity.
4. Saturday evening at 8 p.m. the choir members should be invited for rehearsal at the Church Center; also the ladies organization and any other committee, or the community, should be invited to a meeting at 9 p.m.
5. On Sunday, November 29, the celebration of the Divine Liturgy will start at 10:30 a.m. In the announcement you should mention the following:
  - a. Those who wish to receive Holy Communion should come prepared. Group Confession will be said during the service. Those who physically are unable to preserve a total fasting may consume a soft drink and a piece of bread on Sunday morning before 8 a.m.

July 29, 1970

- b. Requiem Service will be sung. Those who wish to have mentioned the names of their departed loved ones should contact the Parish Council members and submit the names in writing.
- c. After the Divine Liturgy at 12:30 p.m. a community dinner or banquet will be given at the Armenian Church Center. The congregation will have the opportunity to meet with the Primate.
- d. The Primate will return to New York on Monday, November 30.
- e. If there are children or adults who have not been baptized, the Parish Council members should be contacted. Baptism may be performed either on Saturday afternoon or on Sunday aftern the Church Services and before the community dinner.
- 6. Do not hesitate to suggest to us and to make any other arrangements that the Parish Council feels necessary during our visit to the parish.

May the Lord bestow His blessings upon you and upon every member of our community in Houston, Texas.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

jp

December 4, 1970

Mr. Yohannes Hekimian  
St. George Armenian Church and Center  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Hekimian:

We are pleased to appoint the following as officers and members of the Parish Council of the St. George Armenian Church and Center:

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Steve Saxenian           | Chairman      |
| Yohannes Hekimian        | Vice Chairman |
| Zaven Kirksharian        | Secretary     |
| James Boyajian           | Treasurer     |
| Hrant Bardouni           |               |
| Anton Hagopian           |               |
| Kegham Gregory           |               |
| Joseph Kaloustian        |               |
| Garabed M. Keramian      |               |
| Dr. Ardzrouni Pakchanian |               |

Please call the appointed executive bodies to a meeting and inform them of our appointments.

We commend them for their devotion to their church and community, and pray that our parish will flourish through their efforts. Whatever help is possible through our Diocesan headquarters, we are ready to give. We will look forward to greeting them personally. We plan to visit Houston on February 8 to meet with the Parish Council and the other executive bodies.

Sincerely yours,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

December 4, 1970

Mr. Yohannes Hekimian  
St. George Armenian Church and Center  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Hekimian:

We are pleased to appoint the following as officers and members of the Ladies Auxiliary of the St. George Armenian Church & Center:

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Mrs. Anton Hagopian   | Chairman      |
| Mrs. Sona Kirksharian | Vice Chairman |
| Mrs. Shake Berberian  | Secretary     |
| Mrs. Rose Sanjakian   | Treasurer     |
| Mrs. Armen Najarian   |               |
| Mrs. Garabed Keramian |               |
| Mrs. Alice Sweet      |               |
| Mrs. V. Varteressian  |               |

Throughout our Diocese, our Ladies Auxiliaries have for a long time represented one of the main focal points of activity. Their contribution has always been valuable and appreciated, both by ourselves and by our entire church community. The ladies of the Houston Parish are part of an enviable tradition. May the Lord bless their efforts.

Prayerfully yours,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

December 4, 1970

Mr. Yohannes Hekimian  
St. George Armenian Church and Center  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Hekimian:

We are pleased to appoint the following to the Sunday  
Community Service Committee of the St. George Armenian Church  
and Center:

①  
Sund James Boyajian                      Chairman  
Joseph Kaloustian                      Vice Chairman  
Mrs. J. Boyajian                      Corresponding Secretary  
Mrs. J. Kaloustian                      Recording Secretary  
Miss Srpouhi Hekimian

Their responsibility is close to the heart of our church's  
mission, which we sometimes neglect in our preoccupation with  
what seems to be more pressing demands. The service they bring  
to our church will be gratifying on more than one level. We pray  
for their success.

Prayerfully yours,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate



January 8, 1971

Mr. Zaven Kirksharian  
Saint George Armenian  
Church and Center  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Kirksharian:

We were happy to learn from your letter of your plans to have a Vartanantz gathering during our visit to Houston. It will be most appropriate.

We have every confidence that you and your colleagues can, with some thought, assemble an effective program. On our part, we might suggest that a number of songs be sung as part of the program. We have enclosed a few pages of which the checked ones are suitable for the occasion. The music we can bring with us. If this idea is accepted, these songs should be reproduced so that copies may be distributed to all present.

Of course we will be speaking on Vartanantz. It would be a good idea, we think, to invite a non-Armenian to address the gathering on Armenia or the Armenians. This would add another dimension. We seem to recall an article in a local paper by a non-Armenian interested in the subject.

Finally, there might be a recitation or two; and even a soloist who can offer a number of songs in addition to the group singing.

We hope this will be of some help to you.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

encls/

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

AIR MAIL

His Grace Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Ave  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Grace,

Please note that all members of the Parish Council as well as the other Bodies of the Church have been very please to learn by the letter of Mr. Jack Antreassian dated December 3,1970, about your visit to the Houston Parish February 8 to 10.

On that occasion and to celebrate Vartanantz, the Parish Council in their meeting of January 3,1971 felt that it would be appropriate to write to that effect the soonest possible in order to get your advice and guidance for the celebration on Tuesday evening.

We would appreciate greatly if you could write us at your earliest convenience. If you could suggest a program that would no doubt enhance the one we are going to prepare ourselves, it would be a greater success.

Respectfully yours,

*Zaven Kirksharian*  
Zaven Kirksharian

*Take mini book*

*Armenian songs,  
recitation,  
- 10/6*

**March 18, 1971**

**Mr. Zaven Kirksharian  
3703 Darlinghurst  
Houston, Texas 77045**

**Dear Mr. Kirksharian,**

**In response to your request of February 25, I have enclosed a listing of the papers and radio programs in this country, of which we are aware.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jack Antreassian  
Executive Director**

**Saint George Armenian Church & Center**

1111 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

February 25, 1971

Mr. Jack Antreassian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
of America  
630 Second Ave  
New York, N.Y. 10016

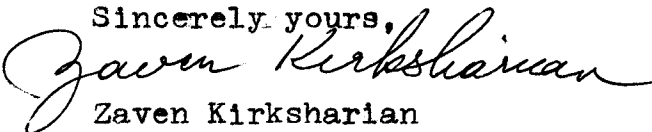
Dear Mr. Antreassian,

Following the wish of the Primate during his last visit to us, we would like to get a roster of Armenian papers.

We had been advised by His Grace to keep up a campaign of publicity concerning our organization. In that way we could get more easily access to persons interested in our goals and Church, persons who need reminding or who have not heard about us yet.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Sincerely yours,



Zaven Kirksharian

(Secretary)

**April 22, 1971**

**Mr. Zaven Kirksharian  
Saint Gregory Armenian Church & Center  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027**

**Dear Mr. Kirksharian:**

**We will be glad to reserve the Muron Film for your parish on the May 15-16 weekend. As I had indicated in my earlier letter, the film will be in West Allis, Wisconsin, for the May 9 weekend.**

**I will ask Father Patee of the St. John Church to send the film along to you immediately after use, perhaps by air parcel post.**

**You should consider however that there is always the possibility of delay in such a close schedule. If it is at all possible to defer your showing one week to the May 22 weekend, you may assure yourself of extra peace of mind.**

**In any event, I will notify Father Patee to send the film along to you immediately after use.**

**Father Patee's address is the following, in the event you may have to contact him directly:**

**St. John Armenian Church and Cultural Center  
7825 West Layton Avenue  
Greenfield, Wisconsin 53220**

**Sincerely,**

**Jack Antreassian  
Executive Director**

**cc: Reverend Patee Metjian**

**JA:jd**

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

AIR MAIL

April 19, 1971

Mr. Jack Antreassian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church  
of America  
630 Second Ave  
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Mr. Antreassian,

We thank you for your letter of April 14 advising us about the availability of the Film Muron.

We are counting hopefully that the film will be send ~~to~~ to us after May the 9th. In that respect we <sup>are</sup> starting to make preparations and arrangements for our proposed showing which will coincide with the week end of May 15 and May 16. For a successful gathering we can only schedule the event for a Saturday or Sunday.

Thanking you again.

Sincerely,

  
Zaven Kirksharian.

**April 22, 1971**

**Mrs. Rose Sanjakian  
6544 Belmont  
Houston, Texas**

**Dear Mrs. Sanjakian:**

**We have received a very disturbing letter from the Parish Council of St. George Armenian Church of Houston, disturbing because of the unfortunate situation created by your refusal to abide by the accepted discipline of our Church administration and our own directives as well. It is particularly unfortunate because it should not have happened at all.**

**It is our practice that 60% of the funds of our ladies and other church organizations must be turned over to the Parish Council of that Church. Whatever exceptions there are to this rule will be specified by us.**

**If you have any objection to anything the Council does, you can communicate with us. But in the meantime, you must submit to its directives.**

**We direct, therefore, that you comply with this ruling, and turn over, immediately, 60% of the funds in the treasury to the Council, and in addition acknowledge the authority of the Council. It is essential to recognize the discipline of our Church. If you cannot do this, it would be appropriate to resign from your position.**

**Prayerfully,**

**Archbishop Terkon Mancoogian  
Primate**

**cc: Mr. Stephen Saxenian**

February 25, 1972

✓ Mr. Stephen Saxenian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. George Armenian Church  
1111 Bering Drive  
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Saxenian:

Father Krikor Hairabedian's plans have been developed to a considerable extent, and we are happy to communicate them to you. Whatever questions remain, he can resolve through direct contact with you.

He will be visiting you with from five to seven young people aged sixteen to eighteen years. They will be traveling by car, and are set to arrive in Houston on Friday evening, March 31, remaining until Friday, April 7.

It is expected that the group will offer an Easter Eve service at 8 p.m. on Saturday, after which perhaps a refreshment hour can be arranged. Easter Badarak will be on Sunday morning at 10:30, with a public dinner afterwards.

The group, in the course of the week, expects to visit families, hospitals if necessary, present bible studies programs, panel discussions, a special evening for youth, and comparable activities, either at the Center or in private homes. Meals can possibly be offered in homes, or even prepared by the group itself if a kitchen is made available to them. They will, of course, need the Center space for sleeping and for programs. Father Krikor mentioned sleeping bags, but this should be confirmed by him.



Mr. Stephen Saxenian  
February 25, 1972  
Page 2

A copy of this letter will be sent to Father Krikor with a request that he contact you to resolve remaining questions, and make whatever adjustments are necessary in this communication. Meanwhile, you will have a basic idea of the intention and the schedule.

We are very happy about this undertaking and hope that it will fulfill all the expectations we have for it.

Prayerfully,



Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ATM/ec

cc: Reverend Krikor Hairabedian

February 25, 1972

The Reverend Krikor Hairabedian  
Pastor  
President of Parish Council  
St. Hovagim & Anna Church  
119 Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60628

Dear Father Krikor:

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Mr. Saxenian. Please check it carefully and communicate with him in turn, so that he will have full and accurate knowledge of as many details as possible of your projected trip.

We have also enclosed our check in the amount of \$100.00, for your personal expenses in this undertaking, which we commend highly.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ATM/ec

Enclosures (2)

December 20, 1972

Mr. Stephen Saxenian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. George Armenian Church  
7534 Briar Rose  
Houston, Texas 77042

Dear Mr. Saxenian:

We regret that our communication of August 17th, regarding the Executive Committee of your Ladies' Organization failed to reach you.

We are pleased to appoint the following as members of the 1972-1973 Executive Committee of the Ladies Organization of the St. George Armenian Church of Houston, Texas:

|                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Suzan Ayvazian, Chairman | Mrs. Armen Najarian        |
| Mrs. Shake Berberian          | Mrs. Vanoush Ohanian       |
| Mrs. Sophie Boyajian          | Mrs. Mary Tasian           |
| Mrs. Beatrice Keramian        | Mrs. Virginia Varteressian |
| Mrs. Knar Matoesian           |                            |

We have appointed only the Chairman, and we direct that a meeting be called at which these members themselves may elect their other officers.

Mrs. Emma Hagopian, Mrs. Sona Kirksharian and Mrs. Rose Sanjakian have been replaced because we feel that it is important to establish the idea of gradual change in the membership of the Committee. We feel it would be better if one-third of the membership could be changed every two years, and we propose to make an effort in that direction.

We are sure that Mrs. Hagopian, Mrs. Kirksharian, and Mrs. Sanjakian, who served so admirably as officers in the past, will continue to contribute their invaluable service in other capacities.

(Continued)

Mr. Stephen Sazanian  
Chairman of Parish Council  
St. George Armenian Church  
7534 Briar Rose  
Houston, Texas 77042

December 20, 1972

Page -2-

We pray that by working together cooperatively and devotedly, The Ladies' Organization will continue to bring its exemplary service to our church community.

Please send us the results of the election, together with the names and addresses of the elected officers.

We wish to note here also, that The Ladies' Organization shall keep \$150 in its Treasury, transferring all sums above that amount to the Parish Council, to be placed in the savings fund of the Parish.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ATM/sua

Feb. 22, 1973

Archbishop T. Manoogian  
Primate & President  
Diocesan Council  
Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your Grace,

On behalf of the Building Committee and various members of the Armenian Community of Houston, Texas, I am writing this letter to inform you of the situation that exists in our inactive and troubled Parish at this time. There is a group that is blocking and discouraging the organization and functioning of a legitimate Armenian Apostolic Church.

As you know, on June 4, 1964, Father Levon Arakelian came to Houston and organized a new Parish, inviting interested Armenians who were eager to establish a Church of our own faith. In 1965, a two acre lot with a house already on it, in one of the finer sections of town was found. Father Arakelian, accompanied by Mrs. Rose Sanjakian, went to see Mr. Sam Harrison, an Oil man of Armenian descent, who, after much persuasion, agreed to contribute the money for the down payment, and further promised that he would clear up the mortgage within five years. Father Arakelian promised Mr. Harrison that the Church would be named after his father, George Harrison.

In 1966, the St. George Armenian Church was Consecrated and Father Arakelian visited us at least twice a year to give guidance to the Parish, and administer the necessary Sacraments. We were on the road to achievements and Mr. Harrison was well pleased with the shown interest and enthusiasm.

The real trouble began after the Easter of 1968. The new Parish Council, appointed by the Archbishop, began to undermine the progress of the Church, because they were unhappy that the deed of the church was in the name of Etchmiadzin. At the time of purchase, Father Levon had cleverly and with foresight, made certain that the deed was recorded in the name of the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

These appointed people blocked and stalled every attempt to keep the church in operation. At the end of 1970, Mr. Hrant Bardoony and Dr. Ardzoomi Paskchanian visited Sam Harrison and tried to persuade him to establish a Trust Fund for the church. He promised that he would donate \$39,000: \$20,000 for a Trust Fund and \$19,000 to finish off the mortgage. Afterwards, Mr. Harrison abruptly changed his mind, and it was evident that pressure had been applied by the group initially opposed to the formation of the church.

On Feb. 8, 1971, a letter was sent to the Parish Council by Mr. Alex Manoogian of Detroit, and the A.G.B.U., in which he promised to give a generous contribution toward the building of a Chapel on the church property, provided that the mortgage remaining on the property was paid off.

This letter was read by the Archbishop, in the presence of a large Assembly of people gathered at a dinner. It was at this dinner that the Archbishop asked the Parish Council to form a Committee for the purpose of paying off the mortgage. Nothing has been done to follow up this request at the present day by the so called "one man" Trustees.

Money was collected at one meeting to pay for bringing in water from the city, but no one seems to know what happened to the collected money, and so far our church survives on borrowed water from the next door church.

Notices have been received by the Armenian residents of Houston, asking for pledges to the St. George Armenian Church and Center, but no one has cared to sign or type his name under these notices to make it official.

The church has never been organized as a regular Parish with proper committees and functions.

By-Laws do not mean anything and the very few who are appointed to become Trustees do not know and do not adhere to any law or church regulations, except their personal egos.

No one recognizes the existence of an Armenian Church, signs are covered up by the chairman, as if he is ashamed of our existence and these signs are uncovered when a clergyman is about to visit.

Trustees are not concerned to invite clergymen and hold functions for the community, for obvious reasons.

We have failed in our original purpose of establishing an Armenian Apostolic Church and disappointed the believers and contributors.

No dues are collected, no efforts made to create a community life.

No worship or meetings held (except when a priest forces himself on them).

No attention and care afforded to the maintenance and improvements on our property.

The Building Committee who originated everything has not even once been called to a meeting or consulted for the benefit of our project.

The Ladies Auxiliary, who was the right arm of Father Levon, is abandoned and had not met the last 18 months, but lately put together with 3 ladies on the Executive Body including a Roman Catholic who does not even believe in our church, and is the treasurer.

The Church Hall is the private gathering place for some students and young men who use it gratis and in any way they please; even when Serpazan was here for Badarak, they insisted to hold a dance till late into the night and the next day not one showed up for the Badarak.

Church utensils purchased for church functions are only used for private parties by a few, who have the control of the church and do not pay for them or for the use of the church.

If there is a function, church uses paper plates. If it wasn't for the rental to the Nursery School, no mortgage payment would have been made and the entire thing would have collapsed.

These facts are matters of life or death to us. With best intentions, we helped Father Levon to make our dream come true; now this dream has become a sad memory, a nightmare, and brought to its finale by a few people who never believed in the project from the first day, from its inception.

We implore the Diocesan Board to seriously consider these problems, and help us bring these matters to a just and fair conclusion, providing us with the means to continue toward the realization of our original dreams.

We would be very grateful, if Father Levon Arakelian would come to Houston and stay for a short time with us, in order to help us re-establish and revive our Church, since he is the only one who knows these people well, and understands our situation from the beginning, and is a very close and dear friend of Mr. Sam Harrison. We are willing to undergo all the expenses involved, with no cost to the church, whatever.

Because of the negligence on behalf of the Diocese, to pursue matters and give the needed guidance to those who have been appointed to be the leaders in the Parish, it is regrettable to inform you that we are on brink of disaster.

Respectfully submitted

H. C. Barboony

H. C. Barboony

Ardaywoony Parkchianian, Ph.D.

M. Martusarai, M.S.

Raymond Alexanian, M.D.

Mike Sanjakian } found the church  
Rose Sanjakian } also found the ground

David Berharout

John G. Morrison

Mrs. Virginia Varteressian

Mrs. Armen Berberian per v.v.

Mrs. Zabel Varteressian per v.v.

Mrs. Sweet (Mesdugian)

Mrs. Mary Pinto

# Saint George Armenian Church & Center

1111 BERING DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027

August 10, 1977

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Your Grace:

At a Parish Council meeting held Monday, July 25, all six of the eight Parish Council members of St. George Armenian Church, Houston, Texas, present, voted to purchase a home in the name of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of New York for use as a home for a parish priest.

The six Parish Council members present were James Boyajian, Yohanness Hekimian, G. A. Melik Keramian, Antranig Mavoulian, Stephen Saxenian, and Sooren Yeriazarian. This action was taken as a result of a Parish Assembly meeting on June 16, at which time the issue of purchase of a home was left to the discretion of the Parish Council.

Because our new parish priest, Reverend Terenig Kondralian, will be arriving in Houston with family and household goods around September 10, the Parish Council has contracted (\$1,000 deposit) to purchase a home at 15119 Wellman Lane, Houston, Texas 77060. The latest closing date for the purchase is August 25.

The sale price for the home is \$32,213. The present owners, Henry A. and Brenda Swatman, Jr. have a Veterans Administration 6 percent mortgage with the Mortgage and Trust Incorporated, P.O. Box 2885, Houston, Texas 77001. The mortgage expires April, 1997, and was for \$14,600. As of August 2nd, 1977, the mortgage has been reduced to \$12,135. The monthly payments for interest and principal are approximately \$87.00, and insurance, taxes, etc. raises the monthly payments to \$139.00. Because the interest rate on the mortgage and the small monthly payments are so favorable, the Parish Council has decided to assume this mortgage and pay the balance of the sale price in cash, \$20,178. The home is being purchased through Century 21 Apollo Real Estate, Houston, Texas.

Our financial status at present is: We have a savings and checking account in Western National Bank, Houston, Texas. We have \$2,750 in our checking account and \$10,033 in savings. In addition, we had a donation of 500 shares of First City Bancorporation of Texas, Inc., which we have sold for cash value of \$15,139. Also attached is a copy of our 1978 budget, which was approved by the Parish Assembly meeting June 16. As you know, we own free and clear a two-acre site of property with two buildings, 1111 Bering Dr., Houston, Texas.



In purchasing the home, two of three members from this parish will act as trustees. They are Yohannes Hekimian, James Boyajian, and G. A. Melik Keramian. The trustees guarantee that in the event the St. George Armenian Church cannot meet the monthly payments of the purchased home, they in turn will be responsible to do so.

The Capital Title Insurance Company of Houston will handle the closing of the home and will use the Texas Standard Title Property Owners form. Title for the home will be sent to the Diocese upon purchase.

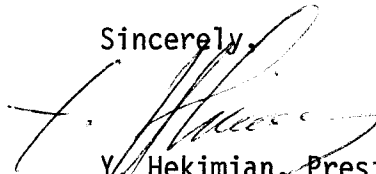
What we must have for the closing is a letter from the Diocese authorizing that Yohannes Hekimian, 5930 Schumacher Avenue, Houston; James Boyajian, 1011 Suwanee, Houston; and G. A. Melik Keramian, 15122 Wellman Lane, Houston; will act as trustees for the Diocese of the Armenian Church, New York, in the purchase of the property located at 15119 Wellman Lane, Houston, Texas 77060, and that in the event the Parish members of the St. George Armenian Church, 1111 Bering Dr., Houston, Texas, are not able to meet the mortgage, taxes, and insurance payments, that the trustees will then assume those responsibilities.

Legal description of the home is northerly 16 feet of lot 13, southerly 46 feet of lot 15, Block One, Greenridge North Subdivision, Section I.

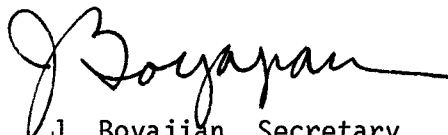
The authorizing letter should be addressed to:

To Whom it may Concern  
Mortgage and Trust Incorporated  
P. O. Box 2885  
Houston, Texas 77001

Sincerely,



Y. Hekimian, President  
Parish Council



J. Boyajian, Secretary  
Parish Council

attachment

December 20, 1978

The Reverend Father Terenig Kondrallian  
Pastor, St. George Armenian Church  
15119 Wellman Lane  
Houston, Texas 77060

Dear Father Terenig:

We thank you for your letter dated November 29, 1978, and the up-to-date listing of all the parishioners included in your mailing list within the State of Texas and surrounding states.

The hard work, time and talent donated by you, the Parish Council and members of St. George Armenian Church of Houston parish for the success of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the Houston parish is exemplary. We also appreciate your willingness and efforts for the success of the Pacesetter meeting in Houston on Monday, November 20, 1978. We appreciate every effort made by any member in the work of our Church, in the life of our parishes and indeed for the growth of our entire Diocese. We pray that the blessing of God may abound on our sons and daughters of St. George of Houston parish, and may the Pastor and the Parish Council, in cooperation with church-affiliated organizations and members, prosper in the spiritual and ethnic life of the community.

We extend to you and your flock the Good Tidings of the birth and revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the revealed and incarnate Lord remember each and every one of us every day of our lives, and make us worthy to serve Him with a fullness of joy in our hearts.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate



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ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH ● RECTORY ● 15119 WELLMAN LANE ● HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060  
FR. TEREHIG KONDRALIAN, Pastor TELEPHONE 713/448-9686

November 29, 1978

Qerashnorh  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian,  
Primate of the Diocese  
of the Armenian Church of North America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Srbazan Hayr:

On behalf of myself as Pastor along with the members of the Parish Council and the entire congregation of St. George Armenian Church, we wish to extend to you our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude and sincere feelings for your recent visitation to Houston.

Your warm presence in our parish brought delight and spiritual satisfaction to everyone as well as assisted our Church's success in celebrating her fifteenth anniversary. We enjoyed your visit here in Houston and look forward to having you with us once again in the very near future.

As we previously discussed, I am enclosing an up-to-date listing of all the parishioners included in our mailing list. This list contains all Armenians within the State of Texas as well as surrounding States. However, a previous list was sent to the Diocese which I hope you will disregard as this new list is now more up-to-date.

If the need arises for any additional information, please feel free to contact me as I will be more than happy to comply.

Madchim Ee Hambogyr Tzer Adjooyh.

Rev. Terhig Kondralian, Pastor

TK/cyk

Enclosure

December 16, 1980

The Reverend Father Terenig Kondralian  
Pastor, St. George Armenian Church  
15119 Wellman Lane  
Houston, Texas 77060

Dear Father Terenig:

We are very pleased to acknowledge your letter of December 5, 1980, and to approve formally the results of the elections held. We extend our congratulations to the newly-elected officers of the Houston A.C.Y.O.A. Chapter, and charge them to work hard for our Church and people in their important and responsible new posts.

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. Johnny Jordan       | Chairman                       |
| Mr. Vahe Asadourian     | Vice Chairman                  |
| Miss Houry Sarkissian   | Secretary                      |
| Mr. Zohrab Tcholakian   | Treasurer                      |
| Mr. Haigaz Ohanian      | Youth Director, Senior Advisor |
| Miss Seta Simonian      | Advisor                        |
| Mr. Hamo DerSoukiassian | Advisor                        |
| Mr. Dennis Badal        | Advisor                        |

The A.C.Y.O.A. aspires to educate our youth in their Armenian Christian heritage and to bring them together in good fellowship to share in sport and in study, in action and in reflection, so that they may grow up to be healthy, joyous and vibrant members of our Armenian nation. We expect the A.C.Y.O.A. and the other parish organizations, officers and members to work together in harmony, to be attentive to each other's needs and aspirations, and to act in the spirit of Christian service and good will that radiates blessing to our people and to the entire community.

In this season of the joyful feast of the Holy Nativity of Our Lord, we pray that He lead you in the paths of His wisdom, that He grant you His love and bestow upon you the gifts of peace, health and joy.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate



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ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH ● RECTORY ● 15119 WELLMAN LANE ● HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060

FR. TERENIG KONDRALIAN, Pastor

TELEPHONE 713/448-9686

December 5, 1980

Qerashnorh  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
President of the Diocesan Council  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Srbazan Hayr:

On behalf of the members of the Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity in extending to you our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the necessary arrangements you made for the visit by the Directors of the Armenian Language Lab, the Department of Religious Education and the A.C.Y.O.A. to our parish.

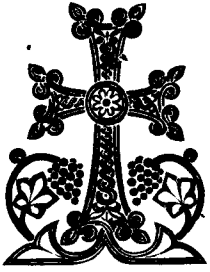
Three day seminars brought many new and advanced developments from our Diocese for our Church and community. It was a second visit for Miss Silva Der Stepanian to Houston where once again, she ultimately aroused the interest of every participants with her many new techniques in learning and teaching the Armenian Language with many new books and teaching materials for our school. Miss Nancy Basmajian accomplished with her first visit to Houston for our Sunday School department, a new curriculum of books for each class and age group, which will assist our students and teachers in the learning of Christian education in the Armenian Church. Mr. James Magarian has officially secured the organizing of the Chapter of the A.C.Y.O.A. in Houston along with the assistance of Nancy Basmajian in forming an A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. group. On Sunday, November 23, 1980 following Divine Liturgy Services, election of the Executive Officers was held. Their results;

- Mr. Johnny Jordan - Chairman
- Mr. Vahe' Asadourian - Vice-Chairman
- Miss Houry Sarkissian - Secretary
- Mr. Zohrab Tcholakian - Treasurer
- Mr. Haigaz Ohanian - Youth Director, Senior Advisor
- Miss Seta Simonian - Advisor
- Mr. Hamo DerSoukiassian - Advisor
- Mr. Dennis Badal - Advisor

With this giant step forward, we are happy to announce that the above named youth of our Church have shown a great willingness to organize such a group within our community and herewith be known as the Houston Chapter of the Armenian Youth Organization of America and we would greatly appreciate receiving your approval of the results of their elections to announce officially in our community.

At this time, I am enclosing for your information and records, a new and up-

*What is p. 2? - Janice*



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ST. GEORGE ARMENIAN CHURCH ● RECTORY ● 15119 WELLMAN LANE ● HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060  
FR. TERENCE KONDRALIAN, Pastor ● TELEPHONE 713/448-9686

March 12, 1979

*Handwritten note:* 1/28/79

Qerashnorh  
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian,  
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church  
of North America and President of the Diocesan Council  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Srpazan Hayr:

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. George Armenian Apostolic Church of Houston was held on Sunday, January 28, 1979, following Divine Liturgy Services at St. Thomas High School Auditorium.

The Assembly was called to order at 1:20 p.m. with myself presiding as President along with Mr. Peter H. Basralian elected from the floor as Chairman of the Day and Mrs. Monica Basralian as Secretary. Fifty five (55) dues paying members were present. The assembly was conducted accurately according to the By-Laws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America of the Eastern Diocese.

After reading the Pastor's Annual Report, the Parish Council's Annual Report and Annual Reports of all Church organizations, with the help of the Nominating Committee, we elected with closed ballot the following members in good standing to the office of Parish Council for two years term:

- Mr. Zaven Kirksharian
- Mr. Jani Ohanian
- Mr. Paul Caramanian
- Mrs. Hasmig Mavoolian

Elections were also held for the officers of a Nominating Committee and an Auditing Committee. Those results were as follows:

- Nominating Committee: Mrs. Sofie Boyajian
- Mrs. Shake Berberian
- Mrs. Vanoosh Ohanian

- Auditing Committee: Miss Gladys Abajian
- Mr. Joseph Galoostian
- Mr. Babken Simonians

At this time we present this record for your approval.

Enclosed also, are the Annual Reports of all Church Organizations affiliated with with our Church, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly along with all the election results of all elected offices.

If any additional information should be required, we will be most happy to supply you with that data.

Madchim Ee Hambooyr Tzer Adjooyr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fa. Terenig Kondralian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Father Terenig Kondralian, Pastor

/hs