

April 2, 1980

Mr. David Davidian
Chairman of the Parish Council
Holy Cross Armenian Church
580 West 187th Street
New York, New York 10033

Dear Mr. Davidian:

We have received a letter dated February 29, 1980, regarding Father Vartan Megherian and signed by the former chairman and three members of the parish council. This letter has been presented before the Diocesan Council on March 28, 1980.

It is our understanding that Father Vartan has been receiving the sum of \$288.46 per week which consists of two items of \$135.00 for stipend and \$153.46 for housing which represents an annual payment of approximately \$15,000.00.

In accordance with prior meetings with your representatives and considering the adjusted clergy stipend directives of the Diocesan Council, effective January 1, 1980, you are to pay to Father Megherian the sum of \$18,775.00 on an annual basis.

The Diocesan Council is aware that said figure does not include any amount for increments due to a parish priest for length of service and leaves any additional amount to be paid to the priest at the present time to the decision of the parish council.

The sum of \$18,775.00 is arrived at as follows and shall be used as a base commencing January 1, 1980:

Stipend	\$10,710.00
Parish Size increment	765.00
Gasoline for automobile	1,300.00
Housing	<u>6,000.00</u>
	<u>\$18,775.00</u>

Regarding gasoline, we have taken into account that the church provides the pastor with an automobile and the church pays for any and all upkeep including but not limited to insurance and registration and that the priest pays for his own gasoline. We have estimated that a reasonable figure for mileage shall be \$10,000 a year at a cost of 13 cents per mile for gasoline which represents the amount of \$1,300 annually.

Regarding housing, we feel that a reasonable amount to be allowed for housing, considering that the priest owns his own home, is fair at a rental of \$400 plus \$100 for utilities for a total of \$500 per month being an annual basis of \$6000.

The Diocesan Council directs the Pastor, the Reverend Father Vartan Megherian, be paid as per the above, commencing as of January 1, 1980.

Regarding the last paragraph of February 29, 1980 letter, be advised that the information contained therein has been placed on file and will be considered on a formal basis when the information contained in this letter regarding stipends has been complied with.

Kindly advise within fifteen days of the date of this letter whether or not the above has been implemented.

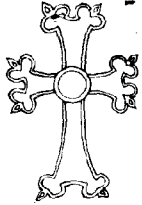
Any person acting contrary to the intent of this letter will be deemed to be acting contrary to the interests of the Holy Cross Church and the Diocese, and the Diocesan Council reserves the right to proceed accordingly.

The financial problems of the various parishes are always under the consideration of the Diocesan Council. However, at the same time obligations of the parish to the clergy shall be a continuing responsibility.

May the members of the parish council be graced by the wisdom, love and peace of the Lord, in their service to His Church and people.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate



HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA
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Rev. Vartan Megerian, Pastor

February 29, 1980

The Most Reverend
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Armenian Diocese
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Grace:

As per our conversation at the February 22, 1980 Diocesan Council meeting, we are presenting the following request in written form.

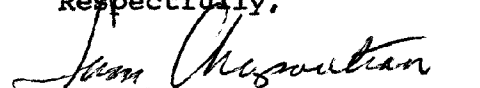
On February 19, 1980, a meeting of Committee and Committee-Elect members was held at our church to discuss Der Vartan. The members present at this meeting were unanimous in their dissatisfaction with Der Vartan's work.

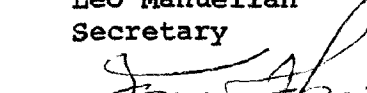
We feel that the major problem is Der Vartan's heart condition which severely limits his mobility. The problems which beset us at Holy Cross, can only be solved by a Pastor who is more dynamic and energetic than Der Vartan can be.

In view of the above, we would like to formally request that Der Vartan be transferred to a parish where his health would not be seriously detrimental to his work, and that we be given a more active Pastor.

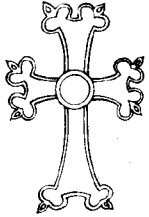
Respectfully,


Leo Manuelian
Secretary


Sam Chapootian
Chairman, Parish Council


James Haroutunian
Treasurer


Hagop Uryan
Vice-Chairman



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Rev. Vartan Megerian, Pastor

File

April 9, 1980

The Most Reverend
Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Primate
Armenian Diocese
630 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Your Grace:

We, the Parish Council, are not agreeable with your letter of April 2, 1980. That letter is an answer to Mr. Chapootian's letter, not ours!

Enclosed is a copy of the March 25, 1980 minutes, which Der Hayr was supposed to present to you.

We offered Der Hayr as you can see in the itemized list of the minutes, which indicates a raise of \$20 per week in salary. He flatly refused the offer and wanted us to adhere the decision of the Diocesan Council.

In view of this, the Parish Council is requesting an appointment to meet with you at your earliest convenience, and would appreciate an early reply.

Thank you. I remain,

Respectfully,

David Davidian

David Davidian
Parish Council, Chairman

RESERVE FUND OF THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH OF ARMENIA
587 West 187 Street
New York, N. Y. 10033

The Holy Cross Church of Armenia has a reserve fund which at December 31, 1977 amounted to \$140,000. This fund is administered by four trustees who were elected by the Parish Assembly in 1977 to serve for a term of four years. The trustees are Setrag Ardouny, Sam Chapootian, Jibrail Haroutunian and Shah Arslan. The powers of the trustees are derived from the Parish Assembly.

In order for the trustees to have some guidelines and in order for the reserve fund to have some permanency, the trustees present to this Assembly the following resolution:

"Whereas, the Holy Cross Church of Armenia has certain reserve funds, which is administered by the trustees elected by the Parish Assembly of the Holy Cross Church of Armenia, and whereas, the Parish Assembly of the church is desirous of creating a permanent fund from these reserves, it is resolved that:

a. A permanent fund of \$100,000 be created from such reserve monies and the trustees of the church be empowered to invest such fund to be known as 'Holy Cross Church of Armenia, Permanent Reserve Fund'.

b. Such Permanent Reserve Fund be inalienable for as long as Holy Cross Church of Armenia remains at its present location, i.e., 580 West 187 Street, New York, N. Y.

c. Any income accruing from such Permanent Reserve Fund may be used for the necessary capital improvements of the church or for any budgetary needs of the church.

d. Any reserve monies, not part of the Permanent Reserve Fund, may also be used for the necessary capital improvements of the church or for any budgetary needs of the church."

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

March 25, 1980

(with old and new members)

1. Der Hayr opened the meeting at 8:40 pm.
2. The minutes of previous meeting were read and accepted.
3. Picnic will be held at St. Thomas grounds in Tenafly on June 22nd. Norayr Bedrosian suggested that we have a raffle again.
4. A motion was made to write to the Trustees asking for \$5,000 operating funds to pay all past debt including, \$1,700 for clergy insurance and \$1,100 to the oil supply company.
5. The following unanimous (joint parish councils 14 votes) offer to Der Hayr was made as a response to Archbishop's March 11, 1980 dated letter:

Item: 1.	\$10,710	Stipend
2.	1,700	Clergy Insurance
3.	750	Retirement payment
4.	<u>5,840</u>	Rent, utilities, automobile
Total	19,000	

6. New Parish Council was elected as follows:

David Davidian	- Chairman
Robert Sarafian	- Vice-Chairman
Nurhan Helvacian	- Secretary
Robert Zarookian	- Assistant Secretary
James Haroutunian	- Treasurer
Vaughn Chambers	- Assistant Treasurer

7. Vaughn Chambers congratulated outgoing members and the chairman of the Parish Council.
8. David Davidian accepted the chairmanship and discussed the conditions for the forthcoming picnic. The co-chairman were appointed:
 1. Leo Manuelian
 2. Hagop Uryan
9. Next Parish Council meeting will be on April 8, 1980.

Respectfully submitted,

Nurhan Helvacian, Secretary