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October 14, 1991

The Very Reverend Father Paren Avedikian, Pastor
John Armenian Church
1001 Northwestern Highway
Luthfield, Michigan 48075

Dear Father Paren:

Your letter of August 15, 1991 and the correspondence enclosed with it requires an interpretation of Article 24 of the Diocesan Bylaws pertaining to the right of a Diocesan Delegate to attend Parish Council meetings.

The Diocesan Council, at its meeting of September 20, 1991 discussed the matter at length and agreed, without dissent, that Article 24 gives Diocesan Delegates the right, within the Delegate's own discretion, to attend any and all Parish Council meetings without the necessity of an invitation. A Delegate also has the right to participate in discussions of Parish and Diocesan issues pursuant to that portion of Article 24 which authorizes the Diocesan Delegate "to give advice and counsel".

Diocesan Delegates should keep themselves informed of Parish issues so that Delegates adequately may represent the Parish on the Diocesan level.

The right to speak, however, does not carry with it a right to vote on matters before the Parish Council and Diocesan Delegates must be aware of their obligation to act in a responsible manner which will not be disruptive of Council business.

I hope this helps to resolve any further questions that may arise and extend my warmest wishes to you and your parishioners. God bless you all and may He imbue your ministry with grace and love.

With prayers,

Bishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate