

BY LAWS OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

PARISH ASSEMBLY

4. Members of the Armenian Church in each community, together with the clergy, shall form a parish of the Armenian Church of America, which shall become a duly constituted parish upon confirmation by the Primate and the Diocesan Council.
5. All persons who have been baptized and confirmed in the Armenian Church, who accept its doctrine, canons and rites, and who fulfill their obligations to the church and community, shall be members in good standing of the Parish Church and shall constitute the Parish Assembly.
6. Every member of the Parish, 21 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) church an annual dues, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased, by the Parish Assembly. Dues are payable in advance on January 1 of each year.
7. Members in good standing of a Parish Church, who are twenty-one years of age or over, may participate, in the assemblies of the same parish and may vote, provided that at least six months have elapsed since the date of their registration as members of the parish and their dues have been paid. They may be eligible for office one year after becoming members.
8. Members who fail to pay their dues for one or more years, automatically forfeit their right to vote at Parish Assemblies, or to hold elective office within the parish. Such members may reinstate these rights by payment of their dues in arrears for at least the previous two years.
9. No one may be a voting member in more than one parish at the same time.
10. A member of a parish acting in contravention of these By-Laws may be deprived of his right to vote and to hold office by the TWO-THIRDS vote of the members present in a duly assembled Parish Assembly. The decision shall be effective upon confirmation by the Primate.
11. A meeting of the members in good standing of the Church, presided over by the Parish Priest, shall form the Parish Assembly which shall conduct such affairs as may come within its jurisdiction.
12. In communities where there is no Parish Priest, meetings shall be held under the presidency of the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Parish Assembly - Continued

13. The Annual Parish Assembly shall be held regularly once a year during the months of January or February, unless decided otherwise by the previous Annual Parish Assembly. Special Parish Assemblies may be held when necessary. Annual or Special Parish Assemblies shall be called with the approval of the Parish Council by the Parish Priest or the Chairman of the Parish Council, as the case may be.

14. The duties of the Annual Parish Assembly shall be:

- A. To elect officers of the Annual Parish Assembly from a slate to be determined by the Parish Assembly.
- B. To elect a Nominating Committee composed of not less than three and not more than five members for a one-year term.

The Nominating Committee shall prepare lists of candidates, double the number of vacancies for the election of the Parish Council, Auditing Committee, subsequent Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates.

Members of the Nominating Committee may enter their own names as candidates for office.

- C. To elect Diocesan Delegates from the parish membership. Those who receive the next highest number of votes in the same election shall be considered alternates in the order of their plurality.
- D. To examine the written annual statements and reports of the Parish Priest, the Parish Council and their subordinate bodies for all activities during the year.
- E. To decide the budget estimate for the ensuing year.
- F. To elect an Auditing Committee composed of three members for a term of one year.
- G. To elect the members of the Parish Council.
- H. To transfer, at the end of every fiscal year, to the reserve fund a part of the excess of income over expenditures of the preceding years as determined by the Parish Assembly.

Parish Assembly - Continued

- I. To render decisions and pass resolutions relative to questions that appear on the agenda attached to the announcement of the meeting.
- J. To render decisions relative to the purchase or construction of real properties, and to submit them to the Primate and the Diocesan Council for their approval.
- K. To adopt resolutions concerning the sale, exchange, lease or mortgaging of real property, and to submit such resolutions to the Primate and the Diocesan Council, for approval.
- L. To adopt resolutions to be submitted to the Diocesan Assembly.
- M. To report in writing on all decisions and resolutions of the Parish Assembly to the Primate and the Diocesan Council for approval.

15. Special Parish Assemblies may be held also upon the written request of at least one-third of the total membership or fifty members of the Parish, whichever is the lesser. Special Parish meetings may be held for the following purposes:

- A. To organize charitable, educational and social bodies with the approval of the Diocesan Council.
- B. To elect candidates for ministry in the Church.
- C. To adopt resolutions to meet the specific needs of the Church, including all the duties set forth in Article 14.
- D. To establish and maintain a Reserve Fund, and to determine the purpose and method of its use as it may seem necessary from time to time, under the direction of the Primate and the Diocesan Council.
- E. To authorize the payment of all expenses or dues determined by the Holy See in Etchmiadzin, the Diocesan Assembly and the Diocesan Council.

Parish Assembly - Continued

- F. To adopt resolutions to be submitted to the Diocesan Assembly and to receive reports from The Diocesan Delegates.
- G. To submit within four weeks reports on all decisions of the Parish Assembly to the Diocesan Council for approval.

16. The invitation to a Parish Assembly shall be in writing to each individual member at least one week before the meeting and shall include the agenda of the Assembly. The Agenda of the Parish Assembly shall be prepared by the Parish Priest and the Parish Council. Other matters of new business may be added by majority vote of the Parish Assembly.

17. At Parish Assemblies the presence of a minimum of one-third of the eligible voting membership or fifty members shall constitute a quorum, and decisions shall be rendered by majority vote of members present and voting, with the exception of Section A and B of this Article.

Should however, the Assembly fail to form a quorum, the affirmative votes of the two-thirds of the members present shall be considered sufficient to arrive at a decision for the above-mentioned purposes, provided such decisions are approved and confirmed by the Primate and the Diocesan Council.

- A. For the election of a Parish Priest by the Parish Assembly, or for the removal from office of a Parish Priest elected by the Assembly, decisions shall be made by the two-thirds vote of members present and voting, and shall be submitted for the approval of the Primate and the Diocesan Council.
- B. For the purchase, for the proposal to sell, to mortgage, to lease or to exchange real estate, or for the construction of a building for the Parish, decisions shall be made by the affirmative votes of the two-thirds of the members present and voting, and shall be submitted for the approval of the Primate and the Diocesan Council/

18. The Annual Parish Assembly shall elect a Chairman and Secretary by a plurality of the members present and voting. Special Parish Assemblies shall be conducted by the Parish Council Chairman and the Parish Council Secretary will act as secretary of these assemblies.

19. The Parish Priest, or in his absence, his assistant shall preside, ex-officio, over the Parish Assembly except when the

Parish Assembly - Continued

Primate or his Vicar is present, in which case the latter shall preside.

20. Any member of the parish questioning the legality of a Parish Assembly or its resolutions or elections may, within seven days from the date of the meeting, file a written complaint with the Parish Priest who will immediately forward same to the Diocesan Council for necessary action.

21. The members of the Parish Council, the Auditing Committee and the Nominating Committee, the Diocesan Delegates and the Officers of the Parish Assembly shall be elected by secret ballot. Voting may take place only after the meeting has been called to order. For these elections a plurality vote shall be considered in order. All other matters shall be decided by a show of hands, unless otherwise decided by the Parish Assembly.

22. In a Parish Assembly each member shall be entitled to one vote which is not transferable and must be cast in person. In case of a tie vote the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote or he shall authorize a second balloting upon the same question,