

A special meeting of the St. Haroutune and St. John parish councils was called to order by our Chairman, Harry Nabedian, on February 22nd, 1960 at 8:00 o'clock p.m. Mr. Hachik Chebanian, Chairman of the St. John parish council acted as co-chairman.

We were honored by the presence of His Grace, Archbishop Sion Manegian, who devoted his time and travel strictly for the purpose of this meeting. The meeting commenced by an opening prayer by our Surpazan Hayr, who later moderated the meeting.

The functioning groups present were as follows:

The St. Haroutune's and St. John's parish councils.
The land site fact finding committee members of both communities, including Mr. Hampar Begesian as ex-officio.

Hayr Seerp Kalfayan, Parish Priest
Deacon Shnerk Meuradian

As first order of business, Surpazan Hayr requested to hear a report from the land site committee. Esahag Haidarian was delegated and he reported that four (4) well located and most suitable sites were selected and that they all are situated in the same general area. These sites are as follows:

1. 30th and Rawson Ave. on Rawson Ave.
2. 7200 So. 27th on the East side of Hy. 41 and approximately 1 block South of Rawson Avenue
3. 7500 So. 27th on the East side of Hy. 41 and approximately 3 blocks south of Rawson Avenue
4. 7600 So. 27th on the East side of Hy. 41 and approximately 4 blocks South of Rawson Avenue.

Al Hayalian pointed out on a map sketch to Surpazan Hayras to the location of these sites. His Grace highly approved of these sites and felt that any one of them was equally satisfactory. He felt that there should be no reason not to accept this area since it was so close to South Milwaukee and inasmuch as it met so closely with the 1/3 and 2/3 fair-distance agreement.

Edward Kalegian, a real estate businessman, felt that the above mentioned acreages could be divided in any amounts desired to meet with our needs. The land site committee expressed unanimous approval of all these sites and felt that 10 acres would be an adequate amount of land. Arthur Barsamian mentioned that a joint effort was put forth to pick a site corresponding with the feasibility of a merger.

Mr. Shnerk Mouradian was given recognition by His Grace at this point and the trend of discussion changed as he brought up the matter of a petition. Mr. Mouradian stated that a merger was not necessary and that 130 people signed against building outside of South Milwaukee proper. This matter was temporarily dropped.

His Grace asked for a resume' of what action transpired at the general membership meetings of the two communities with regard to voting formality and decisions established. Mr. Hachik Chebanian briefed Surpazan Hayr that a merger vote by secret ballot and the roll call method resulted in 45 members present accepting the merger and 10 members dissenting. Mr. Harry Nabedian stated the decision of the St. Hareutune Church membership meeting, which resulted in the acceptance of the merger by a 55-25 vote, conducted by secret ballot and by roll call at an unprecedented membership meeting.

Surpazan Hayr concluded this report and asked to have Sam Avakian, Secretary of the parish council, read a memorandum prepared by an anonymous writer which was presented merely as factual information of cost analysis to prove that a new church, if built in South Milwaukee, could not be maintained without assuming an operational deficit of at least \$8,000.00 annually as compared with the present system and its highest recorded accounts of our present sources of income. Therefore, in view of investing \$95,000.00 in an edifice, such as a church, the memorandum points out that through a merger, and only by combined efforts and potential resources, could such a church be maintained without suffering great losses.

Arthur Kashian asserted that the National Council of Churches made an extensive survey and resolved that at least 50 leaders were necessary for a well run church. The leaders required to operate our system satisfactorily in our community would be as follows:

- 11 Trustees
- 2 Deacons
- 3 Choir representatives
- 4 ACYOA officers
- 5 Ladies Auxilliary officers
- 10 Sunday School representatives
- 6 Armenian School Directors
- 5 Mr. and Mrs. Club members
- 4 Diocesan Auxilliary workers
- 50 Total

The Council further concludes that only 30% of the congregation are the main financial supporters of the church and a mere 15% of total membership are the actual workers keeping the church functioning.

In answer to the matter of the petition to Mr. Schnerk Mouradian, Surpazan Hayr stated that the elders proved their devotion to the church and fulfilled their ambitions and desires to the best of their ability and built what they felt was good for themselves and their children. He praised them highly and said that he appreciated their sentiments.

He further added that the elders should not dispute the needs of youth for expanded facilities in that the future strength of our youth is more important to consider and every effort should be made by all to support and encourage the merger. He again added that we live in a different era than that of our elders' time in which the requirements today could not be compared with that of the past. Therefore, he felt that the elders should accede to the wishes of our youth for a stronger and more unified church and related activities.

Surpazan Hayr expressed his personal views on the merger and concluded by giving his full approval to pursue its realization by going out and selling the idea to everyone rather than to discourage the people against it.

Two comments were interjected from the floor to the effect that the people, during the merger vote, did not fully understand as to what they were voting due to commotion. Hayr Seerp pointed out and clarified these statements by saying that an explanation was made by himself, both in Armenian and Turkish, in addition to the numerous ones stressed in English. He also told them that they are voting only for the merger and not the site as this would be arranged by the joint committees to be voted on at a later date.

Surpazan Hayr pointed out that at the next general membership meeting, each community should vote separately for one of the sites selected by the land site committee and that he should be informed immediately as to which site was voted upon. He made it emphatic that this matter should not be delayed any longer than one month.

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Sam Avakian ^{requester from} ~~inquired~~ of Surpazan Hayr that since he would be in this area on March 13th for the ordination of Deacon Steve Barsamian, if he would please remain an additional day and be present at our membership meeting when the vote for the site would be taken. Sam Avakian stated that the reason for the urgency of his presence was that the heads of the church were split in their opinions about the merger and that they no longer had unified control over this issue in order to continue to convince the parishioners. It was felt that this matter was no longer a local one but had become an issue directly involving the Diocese. Surpazan Hayr agreed this was very true and stated that the meeting is to be held on Monday, March 14th, 1960, timed at our discretion, and His Grace will preside at the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 10:45 o'clock p.m. and collation was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Avakian
Samuel Avakian, Secretary of
Parish Council of St. Haroutune
Church

Surpazan Sien Manegian
cc/Mr. Hachik Chebanian



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