

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JUNE 25, 1972

Meeting opened at 8:45 P.M. by Chairman Peter Sahagian. Prayer by Deacon Parsegh Vahradian. 74 Members present.

Peter turned the meeting over to Diocesan Delegate, Sarkis Tchejeyan. Sarkis gave his report in Armenian of the recent Diocesan Assembly held in Watervliet, N.Y. on May 5-6, 1972. He reviewed the new Amendments brought up at the Assembly, and proposals that were passed. He also explained the additional assessment which will be charged to each Parish because of the great deficit at the Diocese. He reported the Budget was finally passed at \$295,000. He then asked the other Delegate to offer any additional information.

Grace Hadjinian gave her report in English of the happenings at the Assembly. She again explained why the additional assessment was being made to each Parish. She said a special committee was being set up by the Diocese to campaign for the \$2,000,000 trust fund in 1973. The next Assembly will be held in Worcester, Mass. on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Diocese, as the very first assembly was held in that city. She also gave a brief report on the social aspect of the Assembly.

Question raised by Rose Essian on whether the ACYO was actually in existence. Sarkis told her that until we receive official information from the Diocese, our local ACYO could continue as in the past.

Sarkis explained that the Delegates had spoken to the Primate while at the Assembly, and that he had proposed that our former clergy, Reverend Guregh Kalfayan, be transferred back to our Parish. The delegates said they would bring up the proposal at our first general membership meeting, and inform him by July 1st of the outcome of our decision.

At this point, the subject was discussed. Sarkis asked if anyone had anything to say, to raise their hands, and their names would be placed on the list for their views. Mary Ambrookian said she would not be in favor of it inasmuch as he changed the name of the Church. Armand Bendian said Rev. Kalfayan has suffered a heart attack, and there would be a problem if he were to become sick again. Arthur Barsamian added if we cannot love each other, how can we love a clergyman that would be brought here. Kaiser Boyajian agreed. Arshag Savagian agreed with Armand Bendian. Arthur Barsamian added that the Primate had made the statement that he would never send the same clergyman back to the same Parish after he had once left, and for that reason he would not like to see him back. Most of those who spoke expressed respect and love for Der Guregh, but they were afraid for his health if he were to be transferred here. Grace added that he was resuming full time parish duties at his present Church, and that many years had elapsed since he was here, and we should look for a more mature, educated clergyman in him. Hovagim Mouradian said he was a good priest, and we should have him back. Keropve Balian said he felt the same as Armand Bendian. Sema Hayalian made a motion that we take a secret vote on whether we should have Father Guregh return. Rose Essian seconded it. Vote taken - 48 against, 20 for. Formal reply will be mailed to the Primate.

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Although it was not intended by the Parish Council or Diocesan Delegates to have the subject brought up at this meeting, Archie Dadian, Arthur Barsamian, Armand Bendian, and Kaiser Boyajian asked for a few minutes to discuss the article that appeared in the local paper. Sarkis granted them 30 minutes.

Their object in bringing up the matter was to ask the person or persons who were responsible to stand up and admit to placing the article in the paper, and they will be given help, as they feel the person is ill.

Sarkis said the Parish Council had taken action by writing a letter to both local papers that they should not print any further articles unless they are typed up on Church stationary, signed by the presiding Chairman and Secretary, and with the Church Seal. Arthur Barsamian acknowledged that he felt the Parish Council had done all they could in the matter.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Hadjinian, Secretary