

May 17, 1972

The Reverend Nersess Baboorian  
Pastor  
President of Parish Council  
✓ St. Gregory The Illuminator  
110 Main Street  
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830

Dear Father Nersess:

We have received your letter of May 10, together with the enclosed letter addressed to you by Mr. Der Boghosian.

Before coming to any conclusions, and before acknowledging receipt of Mr. Der Boghosian's letter to him directly, we would like to have the minutes of the Assembly referred to, together with any written reports submitted to that Assembly.

In addition, if Mr. Der Boghosian's letter was presented to the Parish Council, we would like to have a copy of the minutes of that meeting.

Let me hear from you at the earliest opportunity.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian  
Primate

ATM/ec



Rev. Fr. Nerses Baboorian  
9- Buttonwoods Avenue  
Haverhill, Mass 01830

August 11, 1972

My dear brother  
I received your letter of August 7th and was  
glad to hear from you. I hope you are  
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Rev. W. Baboian  
St. Gregory The Illuminator  
Haverhill, Mass.

April 24, 1972

Dear Rev. Hair,

It is with deep regret that I am obliged to write this letter. But, over the weekend, several of our church members, numbering six, approached me and complained about the conduct of the special parish assembly meeting held on Thursday, April 20, 1972; which, I personally, due to urgent personal reasons, was unable to attend. After listening to the happenings of this meeting, and with careful deliberation, always mindful of my duties as a diocesan delegate to supervise the strict observance of the provisions of the diocesan By-Laws, I have found certain discrepancies and irregularities which I now call to your attention, upon which a decision can be rendered as to the meeting's legality.

It is unfortunate that in such a small community as ours that situations like this are created; and in order to allow our church to breathe once again freely, the individual or as in this case individuals certainly must have the right to freedom of speech, thought and action. Anytime any council or group denies this to one it denies



the right to the whole. The following are some of the irregularities that I have ascertained.

① On page 21 of the By Laws it clearly states in paragraph 18 that special parish assemblies shall be conducted by the Parish council chairman and that the Parish council secretary will act as secretary to take the full minutes of this meetings. The lack of a <sup>formal</sup> secretary for this purpose leads me to believe it was held very informally and ~~with~~ with utter abandon. But how informal and inaccurate can we be when we are asked to spend approximately 20% of our total cash assets. And while the parish council secretary wasn't doing his job, we find him seated in the assembly and actually harassed some of the members. Our community with such remarks as quote "What are you, a troublemaker?"; unquote, while they were trying to object to the proceedings. Statements such as this coming from an officer of our church can do nothing but harm to our community. Evidence of his type of thinking was aimed at me also by him when I attended the Parish council meeting two weeks earlier. As you know, as diocese delegate and advisor to the Board, I asked to speak at that meeting on various proposals



that I had prepared for the smoother functioning of our local church. But when time did not permit, the hour being late, I suggested that I would try to introduce them at the special parish meeting; whereupon he jumped on me stating quite strongly that I didn't have the right to speak other than on items on the prepared agenda; and also why should we waste everyone's time. These are great words coming from the secretary who hasn't got the time to take the minutes. I believe

this man should be censured and enlightened about church rules, duties and above all politeness.

On page 19 it clearly states in paragraph 16 that other matters of new business may be added to the agenda by the majority vote of the parish assembly.

(2) It is also clear that in a meeting of this kind, an eligible membership list <sup>must</sup> be produced, and with the use of a roll call establish those present who can vote.

This general procedure enables the parish to set up the proper prescribed rules in regards to quorum, and find out how many votes shall be considered



sufficient to arrive at a decision. This was not done and with ineligible voters possibly being present and not accounted for, I defer for your consideration that the entire voting procedure be put out of order. The voting procedure is defined on Page 194.

(3) As new ~~thoughts~~ <sup>thoughts</sup> were tried to be introduced from the floor, the chairman didn't entertain them on the grounds that they were not on the agenda, yet toward the end of the meeting, he, himself broke his own rule and entertained, without majority approval, a proposal to paint the parish houses, to which he explained by saying he forgot to put it on the agenda. Imagine forgetting an item such as this, an expenditure of approximately 6% of our total cash assets. This certainly is good business.

With these major violations of proper procedures to be used, plus the general harassment given by certain parish council members, plus an obvious unprepared presentation of such important issues; namely spending 26% of total cash assets, I urge you, Her Hair, to consider the effects of allowing such a poorly

managed meeting, and exercise your good judgment  
or rendering a decision on it's legality.

I am available for future deliberations personally  
on this matter between you and me and any  
interested council member. Having acted in good  
faith towards my fellow parishioners,

I remain sincerely,

Manoog Lee Boghosian

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