

The Annual Parish Assembly of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church was held on Sunday, ~~February 25,~~ *March 8,* 1992, at 1:15 p.m. in the Derderian Hall with 42 members present.

Parish Council Chairman Michael Takesian called the meeting to order after the opening prayer. Nominations for Assembly Chairman and Secretary were taken from the floor. Vasken Gostanian was elected Chairman of the Assembly, with Cynthia Kasparian as secretary.

The minutes of the 1991 Parish Assembly were read and accepted. The Chairman asked for a moment of silence for the members of the Church who passed away in 1991.

Zarty Chilingirian presented the Nominating Committee's list of nominees for Parish Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees. She also mentioned that every year it becomes more difficult to find members to serve on these committees and any help that the members could provide would be greatly appreciated. No nominations were made from the floor.

The election was held with only dues paying members eligible to vote. The results are as follows:

Parish Council: Elizabeth Derderian
Vasken Gostanian
David Tavitian

Nominating Committee: Zarty Chilingirian
Edward Der Bogosian
Sylvia Tavitian

Auditing Committee: Edward Basmajian
Michael Devejian
Cynthia Kasparian

Reports of the following organizations were accepted: Church Choir, Sunday School, Women's Guild, Ladies Aide Society, and Mr. & Mrs. Club. Michael Takesian provided highlights of the Parish Council Report, and offered to clarify any items from the Treasurer's Report and the 1992 budget. He also explained that memorial contributions increased during 1991 due to the passing of many devoted church members, and was not anticipating any large expenditures during 1992. Clarifications were made on several items on the Treasurer's Report, including the possible repair work on the church steeple. Joseph Tavitian reported that he is in the process of gathering estimates from contractors, but the contractors who performed steeple work were specialized and hard to locate. He also commented that this could be a major expense for the Church.

Esther Bonin of the Auditing Committee reported that the books were in good order. The report and budget were then accepted by the Assembly.

OLD BUSINESS:

The weekly luncheons initiated this past year in Derderian Hall have been very successful. Michael Takesian suggested that the group be formalized and fall under the Parish Council jurisdiction. The assembly disagreed and felt that the weekly luncheon group should not be structured.

NEW BUSINESS:

Other topics that were discussed include:

- Clarification of the Diocesan bylaws whereby a quorum must be present to invoke any decisions on behalf of the Church. A quorum represents one third of the dues-paying members, who must be present for each assembly and two thirds for a special assembly.
- Building of a storage space.
- Building of a closer entrance to the back steps through the fence to the parking lot.
- Recommendation that the choir door remain closed during church services.
- Suggestion that the doors leading to the kitchen were installed backwards.

The following motions were made and passed:

Motion by Sylvia Tavitian: "To raise church dues to \$30.00 in 1993."

Motion by Alice Basmajian: "To have the gas company check the thermometer in Derderian Hall."

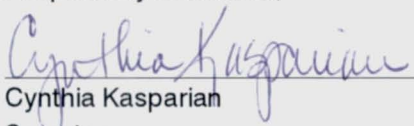
Michael Takesian discussed the topic of a deacon-in-charge. The Primate met with the Parish Council in January and explained that because there were many parishes without permanent priests, the Diocese wished to initiate a program whereby new deacons would be trained to become priests. The deacons would not be able to perform church services, but would act in an administrative role on a full time basis, until they were ordained as priests. The salary for the deacon-in-charge would be \$25,000 annually, plus housing and automobile allowances. Father Krikor would still be available to perform church services until the deacon-in-charge is ordained. The two available candidates are James Magarian and Norman Odabashian. James Magarian is from Chelmsford and will be ordained a deacon upon completion of his religious education. He is also in the process of taking Armenian language lessons. Norman Odabashian is an assistant pastor who has completed his religious education, but wishes to be married before he is ordained a priest. Norman is also fluent in the Armenian language.

Father Krikor told the Parish Council that he will accept less compensation for his services so that someone else will be able to come full time. The Vicar General also told the Parish Council that it would be quite some time before a permanent priest would be available, and that they should consider this proposal. The Parish Council has interviewed both candidates, who have made five year commitments to St. Gregory, if chosen.


The assembly discussed this subject and Paul Tavitian made a motion "to spend \$25,000 for a deacon-in-charge for religious and administrative purposes." The motion did not pass. Since all background information was not available, the assembly decided to hold another meeting at a future date to discuss this topic further.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Kasparian
Secretary



Vasken Gostanian
Chairman, Annual Parish Assembly