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From: ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN

CHURCH. OF HAVERHILL, MA

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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC
CHURCH OF HAVERHILL, MA

1993 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 1993 Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church of Haverhill was held on Sunday, March 28, 1993 following church services. A light luncheon was served to all who attended prior to the meeting.

The meeting began with a prayer by Rev. Father Sahag Kaishian. Edward DerBogosian was nominated as Chairperson and Virginia Tavitian as Secretary. Two clergymen, Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian and Rev. Father Sahag Kaishian, and 36 parishioners were in attendance.

The Chairperson asked that the minutes of the 1992 Parish Assembly be given by the Secretary but the minutes were misplaced. Therefore, Michael Takesian as Chairman of Parish Council was asked to summarize what was discussed at last year's Parish Assembly.

He mentioned that dues would be increased from \$25 to \$30 in 1993. Vasken Gostanian was selected as Chairperson of last year's meeting. Most of the discussion during the meeting was on whether we should hire a deacon to be in charge of our church.

Michael also gave the election results during the 1992 Parish Assembly.

Elected to Parish Council

1. Elizabeth Derderian (33 votes) Incumbent
2. Vasken Gostanian (30 votes)
3. David Tavitian (32 votes)

Mary Mooradian who received 11 votes did not get elected.

Elected to Nominating Committee

1. Zarty Chilingarian (35 votes)
2. Edward DerBogosian (31 votes)
3. Sylvia Tavitian (35 votes)

Twanda McNeil who received 8 votes did not get elected.

Elected to Auditing Committee

1. Edward Basmajian (19 votes)
2. Michael Devejian (24 votes)
3. Cynthia Kasparian (23 votes)

Esther Bonin who received 16 votes, Zaven Gostanian who received 15 votes, and Richard Serabian who received 11 votes did not get elected.

Marty Aaronian was elected as Diocesan Delegate.

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Zarty Chilingarian gave the Nominating Committee Report.

Those running for Parish Council

1. Alison Basmajian
2. Herman Gennetian
3. Raffi Papalian
4. Joseph Tavitian

Those running for Nominating Committee

1. Elaine Meuse
2. Martin Aaronian
3. Virginia Tavitian

Those running for Auditing Committee

1. Edward DerBogosian
2. Richard Serabian
3. Michael Takesian

Those running for Diocesan Delegate

1. Paul Tavitian
2. Edgar Mosesian

The following Parish Council members were not seeking re-election: Michael Takesian, Richard Devejian, Pauline Harian, and Alice Rayissian. Parish Council members cannot be on Parish Council for more than three two-year terms.

The election of officers took place next and the results are as follows:

Parish Council

1. Alison Basmajian (35 votes)
2. Herman Gennetian (33 votes)
3. Raffi Papalian (35 votes)
4. Joseph Tavitian (34 votes)

Nominating Committee

1. Elaine Meuse (34 votes)
2. Martin Aaronian (35 votes)
3. Virginia Tavitian (34 votes)

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Auditing Committee (1 Three Year Term)

1. Richard Serabian (13 votes)

Edward DerBogosian who received 9 votes and Michael Takesian who received 12 votes did not get elected.

Diocesan Delegate

1. Paul Tavitian (26 votes)

Edgar Mosesian who received 6 votes did not get elected.

Avedis Derderian asked the Chairperson how many dues paying members the church had at the present time. The records showed 90 dues paying members. Avedis was upset that better records were not being kept by church members and felt we need to keep a tighter lid on expenses. Der Hayr responded and said he would do his part to keep the church records in order.

Der Hayr gave his clergy report next.

1. The Loosavorich was re-established.
2. The church participated in Operation Winter Rescue to send food, clothing and medical supplies to Armenia.
3. Nursing homes were visited.
4. All New England Regional meetings were attended.
5. All Deacon Assemblages were attended.
6. Greater Haverhill Clergy Association meetings were attended.
7. Der Hayr was taking classes to improve his Armenian.

Reports were then given of the various church organizations.

Michael Takesian gave the Parish Council report. He said he had served on Parish Council for 6 years and felt it was a tremendous opportunity for all of us to serve.

Edward Basmajian gave the Mr. & Mrs. Club report. The Group will be sponsoring a Chicken Dinner on Saturday, May 1, 1993. Mr. & Mrs. Club will be purchasing new chairs for the church hall soon.

The Choir report was given by Richard Bazarian who asked that past Choir members sing in the Choir again. The Choir will be holding a Palm Sunday Banquet on Sunday, April 4, 1993 and all were invited to attend.

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Der Hayr gave the Sunday School report in the absence of Kim Dandurant. The Sunday School is active and well organized but we need more students.

Michael Takesian gave the Auditing Committee report. The Auditing Committee, including Michael Devejian, Edward Basmajian, and Cynthia Kasparian, have not completed the 1992 audit yet. The Chairperson recommended that the audit be done in 30 days and the parishioners be made aware of the audit.

1992 Financial Report of Parish Council and Adoption of Budget for 1993

Avedis Derderian mentioned how the disbursements were greater this year. He felt that we were running \$20,000 in deficit. We must take a better look into the budget. He did not feel we should take the money out of our savings. We should arrive at the funds at another way.

Martin Aaronian pointed out a mistake was made on the year ending December 31, 1992 Disbursements in the Annual Church Report.

Total Liquid Assets should read: \$136,330.09 not \$136,33.09

A suggestion was made to have a Fund Raising Committee to help raise needed funds for the church. Other suggestions were Bingo and the Lottery.

Der Hayr pointed out that our parish has potential but we need to get more people involved.

Der Hayr said Parish Council would get together to elect officers for Parish Council. Electing advisors would be handled at the Parish council level.

Old Business

Alice Kasparian asked if we have accepted the budget. Avedis Derderian felt we should receive the report from the Auditing Committee before we accept the budget.

It was suggested that if anything is out of order with the audit we would have to have another meeting to solve any problems.

Zaven Gostanian made a motion and Joe Tavitian seconded the motion that if the audit is done within 30 days then we agree to pass the budget - with conditions.

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Alice Kasparian asked to have more of a breakdown of the 1993 budget and wanted a report from the Diocesan Delegate, Marty Aaronian. Marty said he did give a report to parishioners of the last year's Diocesan meeting which he did attend.

The Chairperson recommended that the Diocesan Delegate should give his report during the Annual Parish Assembly. Marty was then asked to give a brief report on the Diocesan meeting. He mentioned that three items were discussed.

1. Unity - The Prelacy has not agreed to the by-laws for the combined Prelacy and Diocese. The Prelacy members did not show up at the last meeting.
2. Bringing youth to the church, ages 18-35.
3. Our church and our need for a priest.

New Business

Avedis Derderian asked what was being done about the steeple and suggested that we should not let deterioration occur.

Michael Takesian said that the steeple was reviewed two years ago. Estimates were made but we need additional information before doing any work on the steeple.

A suggestion was made to check with Lance Kasparian to try to get funds from the Historical Society. However, Marty Aaronian told parishioners that the church is no longer on a historical site because aluminum siding has been placed on the church.

Marty Aaronian gave estimates which were received to fix the steeple. Zak Alexanian inspected it and could not give a solid estimate. He said it needs functional pieces added which would cost \$6,000 - \$8,000 - \$10,000.

Joe Tavitian thought the estimate ran between \$30,000 to \$50,000. He said a professional steeple jack wanted to rebuild it all at \$50,000 - \$60,000.

We would need to get more estimates from contractors before any work was done. Our options are:

1. Fix the steeple up over a period of 10-15 years.
2. Spend a lot of money fixing it up.
3. Remove the steeple.

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Virginia Tavitian asked about the heating system. Michael Takesian responded and said a new thermostat was needed. Pipes needed to be replaced. Already several of the lines have been replaced.

Zarty Chilingarian made a motion to close the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Very Rev. Mesrob Semerjian ended the meeting with a closing prayer.

Avedis Derderian wanted recognition be made and our appreciation shown to Zarty Chilingarian, Garabed Loosian, Sue Kezerian, Alice Kasparian, Sylvia Tavitian and to all others for their efforts in working for the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Tavitian

Virginia Tavitian
Secretary
1993 Annual Parish Assembly