

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church Haverhill, MA

1996 Parish Assembly

The 1995 Annual Parish Assembly was held on Sunday, January 28, 1996.

The meeting began at 1:40 p.m. with a prayer by Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian.

Vasken Gostanian, interim chairman of the Assembly, introduced Judge Vincent Gurahian, Chairman of the Diocesan Council, who would be available if clarification were needed on any issues. Edward Der Bogosian, Parish Council treasurer, stated that the parish had 154 dues paying members and 68 of those members were present. Since 50% of the membership is required for a quorum, we satisfied the requirement.

Roll was taken and the 1995 Annual Report Package was distributed to all dues-paying members present.

Nominations were presented for Assembly Chairperson and Secretary.

Chairperson

Marsha Kazarosian

Martin Aaronian*

Steven Arthur*

Ann Drouin*

Secretary

Cynthia Kasparian

Margaret Kazarosian

*nominated from the floor

The 1995 Parish Assembly minutes were accepted by the parish. Al Mosesian asked if the minutes from the October 15, 1995 Special Parish Assembly could be read aloud. As Barbara Sarkisian-Arthur read the minutes aloud, ballots were distributed to the dues-paying members present. The ballots were then collected and counted by the Nominating and Auditing Committees. Steven Arthur was elected Assembly Chairperson, and Cynthia Kasparian was elected Secretary.

MOTION by Sylvia Tavitian to accept the minutes as read.

Preceding the vote on the motion, Ardash Chilingirian asked why the taxes on Attitash Acres was paid by the Church if the Church did not own the property. Marsha Kazarosian called a point of order and stated that if the subject wasn't discussed in the meeting then, we need to either accept or reject the minutes. Discussion then ensued about the repayment of the taxes by Parish members who were present at the Special Assembly and Judge Gurahian.

AMENDMENT by Marsha Kazarosian to add the following language to the Special Assembly minutes and to accept the minutes:

The taxes may be reimbursed by the Trust out of the goodness of their hearts as recollectd by Judge Gurahian.

The motion was seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Steven Arthur then asked the Parish to look over the organizational reports.

MOTION by Jack Johnson to accept the reports as written.

In reference to the Parish Council report, James Derderian read the paragraph concerning Attitash Acres aloud. He said that it was a false report. The issue should be left with the Parish Council and laid to rest. Mr. Derderian recalled the history of Attitash Acres and the three Parish Council members, Abe Kezerian, Charlie Tashjian, and James Derderian, that made up the Trust.

Marsha Kazarosian called point of order and stated that this stage of the meeting was to either accept or reject the report.

Der Sahag stated that, in a letter from the Diocese on December 1, 1995, that the Parish Council report must be signed by all the officers, and that the Parish Council report only had Zarty Chilingirian's signature as Parish Council Chairman. Mrs. Chilingirian stated that she followed past history where the Chairman prepared the report and signed it.

MOTION by Marsha Kazarosian to accept the Parish Council Report as written without the missing signatures.

Motion was seconded. **MOTION OPPOSED.**

MOTION by Sylvia Tavitian to only include motions in the Parish Assembly minutes.

AMENDMENT by Marsha Kazarosian to record the motions and state that discussions on subjects were held, but do not go into any detail.

Motion was seconded. **MOTION OPPOSED.**

Steven Arthur then turned the meeting over to Zaven Gostanian, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee, who presented the ballots.

Parish Council Ballot: Herman Gennetian requested that his name be taken off the Parish Ballot, and Harry Kasparian, Albert Mosesian, Ann Drouin, and James Derderian were nominated from the floor.

Nominating Committee Ballot: Barbara Sarkisian-Arthur, Sylvia Tavitian, Sevan Demirdogen, and Pam Nicolosi were nominated from the floor.

Motions were made and seconded for each of the ballots. **MOTIONS PASSED.**

As the ballots were prepared, Steven Arthur read the Merger Committee report aloud.

MOTION by Sylvia Tavitian to accept the report as read.

Motion was seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ladies Aide Report

Araxie Kasparian, treasurer, explained a discrepancy in the Ladies Aide financial report and the Parish financial report of \$2,000.00. The Ladies Aide had given the Parish Council a check for \$2,000.00 in January 1996, but the check was dated December 31, 1995. The Auditing Committee had requested that she remove the \$2,000.00 from the financial report, since the Parish Council will not report the receipt of the money until 1996.

Judge Gurahian stated that there would not be a need to correct the report as the Assembly minutes would include the explanation.

MOTION by Alice Kasparian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Loosavorich

MOTION by George Kasparian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Sunday School

MOTION by Sylvia Tavitian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Steven Arthur thanked the Sunday School superintendent and teachers for their fine work.

Mr. & Mrs. Club

MOTION by Cynthia Kasparian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Women's Guild

MOTION by Cynthia Kasparian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Young Adults Group

MOTION by Sylvia Tavitian to accept the report as written.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Financial Report

Yn. Lana Kaishian questioned the figures for the Harvest Festival presented in the report. Richard Serabian, representing the Auditing Committee, agreed with Edward Der Bogosian that the report is representing the net figure in the income section of the financial report, and a gross figure in the expense section.

MOTION by Yn. Lana Kaishian to amend the financial report to reflect only the net amount of \$7,452.59.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

Pam Nicolosi requested a clarification of the attorney's fees presented on the report. Joseph Tavitian asked for a breakdown of the \$44,360.00 deficit reflected in the report. Edward Der Bogosian stated that \$31,000 represented the steeple and the remainder represented projected work on the Parish House.

Al Mosesian initiated a discussion regarding the motion passed at the 1995 Special Assembly to set up a memorial fund, but wasn't reflected in the 1996 budget. Vasken Gostanian asked Judge Gurahian for a clarification of his comments at the Special Assembly regarding continuation of setting up memorial funds. Judge Gurahian stated that if the Parish votes on the setup of a memorial fund, it should be reflected in the financial report. The judge also stated that if monies given to the Church is not written specifically for a special fund, it should be placed in the general fund. Judge Gurahian also said that he would discuss this issue with the Parish Council privately.

Sevan Demirdogen stated that since the Harvest Festival figures must be amended, the totals would also have to be changed.. Edward Der Bogosian concurred.

MOTION by James Derderian to let the Treasurer and the Budget Committee rework the figures on the financial and present a revised budget at a Special Assembly.

AMENDMENT by Marsha Kazarosian to review the financial report and state specific line items that must be revised.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION by James Derderian to approve the budget subject to the appropriate revisions made by the Parish Council.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

MOTION by Pam Nicolosi to send out the 1996 Annual Reports and all Assembly minutes ten days prior to the Annual Parish Assembly.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

OLD BUSINESS

Steeple

Edward Der Bogosian, representing the Steeple Committee, reviewed the second estimate received for \$27,500.00. A copy of the report is available in the church office. Discussions ensued on whether the steeple would remain as part of the structure or be removed, and other issues on the subject. Mr. Der Bogosian stated that the current plans were for the steeple to remain part of the structure. He also stressed the importance of completing the repairs this year, after years of discussion on the subject and the safety factor. The Parish Council stated that decisions on repairs to the church fall under the scope of their responsibilities, and although welcome, did not require a motion to be passed.

Michael Der Boghosian reminded the Parish that this church is the oldest church in Haverhill and the city would be very upset if we drastically changed the structure in any way.

MOTION by Joseph Tavitian that a special committee be established at a later date by the Parish Council to receive other estimates and report back to a Special Assembly for voting.

AMENDMENT by Marsha Kazarosian to put a time limit of three weeks on the original motion.

Amendment was seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Motion with amendment was seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Merger Committee

Steven Arthur reminded the Parish that the Merger Committee was set up as a fact-finding committee. James Derderian answered questions from the floor. Judge Gurahian stated that the Primate has asked Lawrence and Haverhill to hold discussions on the feasibility of merging. If they discuss it and find that they shouldn't do it, then the Primate will accept their decision.

Main Doors

Edward Der Bogosian stated that James Derderian had removed one of the doors for refinishing. He was paid \$2,283.00 and has not returned the hardware for the door. Mr. Derderian recalled the history of the front church doors, and stated that he will not return the hardware until he has refinished the other door.

NEW BUSINESS

Fact Finding Committee

Zarty Chilingirian stated that she would like to set up a fact finding committee to determine the needs of the Parish. The committee would send out a survey to all members and report findings to the Parish Council.

MOTION by Der Sahag to hold next year's Parish Assembly on February 9, 1996.

Motion was seconded. **MOTION OPPOSED.**

ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominating Committee presented the results of the election.

Parish Council

Albert Mosesian	46**
James Derderian	41**
Ann Drouin	40**
Harry Kasparian	39**
Cynthia Kasparian	35**
Virginia Tavitian	29
Margaret Kazarosian	23
Vasken Gostanian	23
Alice Rayissian	22
Michael Der Boghosian	22
Richard Devejian	4
Rosalie Sasso	3
Ardash Chilingirian	1

Nominating Committee

Barbara Sarkisian-Arthur	37*
Pam Nicolosi	37*
Sylvia Tavitian	33*
Janice Mosesian	20
Mary Der Boghosian	20
Lisa Kasparian	16
Sevan Demirdogen	16
Zarty Chilingirian	9
Zaven Gostanian	6
Linda Pooler	3

Auditing Committee

Richard Serabian	39***
Martin Aaronian	27

- * elected to an one year term
- ** elected to a two year term
- *** elected to a three year term

MOTION by Cynthia Kasparian to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. with a closing prayer by Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cynthia Kasparian
1996 Parish Assembly Secretary



Stephen Arthur
1996 Parish Assembly Chairman



Rev. Fr. Sahag Kaishian
Pastor

Judge Vincent Gurahian
1996 Parish Assembly President