

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

February 1, 1974

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church was opened with a prayer by Father Diran on Friday, February 1, 1974, at 8:10 p.m. Parish Council Chairman Mickey Bagdasarian welcomed the parish members. Roll call was taken by Florence Karoghlanian with the result that 39 eligible members were present. Since this did not constitute a quorum, a motion was made and passed that the total number be considered a quorum.

Richard Aurslanian and Alice Hacherian were elected to serve as Chairman and Secretary of the Day, respectively.

Miss Hacherian read the minutes of the 1973 Annual Parish Meeting, which were accepted as read. Father Diran suggested that the minutes of the previous meeting be included in the Annual Parish Report each year so that parishioners may be better prepared to discuss items. The Parish Council will consider this suggestion.

Garbis Balderian suggested that the Annual Report be printed in Armenian and English for the benefit of the entire parish. Fr. Diran stated that it would be too great a task to prepare the entire report in Armenian. After some discussion, Ralph Chakerian made a motion, which was seconded by Ojin Chakamian, that the highlights of the Pastor's Report be reported in both languages. This motion was passed.

At this point, the Chairman turned the meeting over to Mickey Bagdasarian, who conveyed his appreciation to the Council members for being an outstanding group that was very cooperative. He also thanked Fr. Diran for his guidance. Mickey took a few minutes to outline each member's functions and accomplishments this past year. He also commended the Parish staff, consisting of George Sakian, Sandra Aurslanian and Zaven Keoshgerian, for doing a beautiful job. Continuing his praises, Mickey brought to our attention that the Christmas Tree Sales would not have been possible without the help of Kevork Arslanian, Garbis Balderian, Harry Chakamian and Krikor Yeranian. Proceeds from the sale amounted to \$1,464, which was our greatest profit to date.

All church organizations and parishioners received a special thanks from the Parish Council for their hard work and cooperation. At this point, Kevork Arslanian commented that Mickey Bagdasarian did an extremely thorough job in his capacity. It was obvious that everyone was in agreement on this.

The Financial Report was the next item on the agenda. Ralph Chakerian brought out the fact that we were fortunate during the past year to receive funds from the estates of Sam Atamian and George D. Margosian. The suggestion was made that serious consideration be given to church contributions when making wills. Krikor Yeranian questioned the amount of \$2,831 for insurance with relation to coverage that did not include stolen property. Ralph advised that coverage for vandalism will be included in the future.

The proposed Budget for 1974 in the amount of \$29,500 was accepted by the membership.

In addition to the report by the Diocesan Delegates, Delegate Noubar Abdalian informed the group that the Diocese needs money and that they were currently promoting a Stewardship program. Fr. Diran advised that Parish Council Chairmen are welcome at Diocesan Assembly Meetings and it would be worthwhile for future Chairmen to seriously consider attending Assemblies.

Fr. Diran spent a few minutes explaining the responsibilities of Parish Council members, after which the meeting was turned over to Sandra Aurslanian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The term of office will terminate for Council members Kevork Arslanian, Mickey Bagdasarian, Carlos Bozoklian, Ralph Chakerian, Nazar Mirakian and Harry Odabashian.

The following slate of candidates was proposed by the committee to serve two-year terms: Kevork Arslanian, Cross Bagdasarian, Ralph Chakerian, Nazar Mirakian and Krikor Yeranian. Noubar Abdalian was nominated from the floor, which brought the total to six nominations. After some discussion, Ralph Chakerian made a motion, which was seconded by Alex Bagdasarian, that we waive the requirement of two names for each vacancy. The motion was unanimously passed.

Mona Karoghlanian then made a motion that we accept the six names on the ballot. Eileen Hacherian seconded the motion which was unanimously passed. As a result of this action, each nominee received a total of 39 votes.

On behalf of the community, Dick Aurslanian thanked the present Parish Council for a job well done during the past year.

The Nominating and Auditing Committees were then selected for the coming year. The Nominating Committee will consist of Paul Arslanian, Alice Bagdasarian, and Mickey Bagdasarian. The Auditing Committee will be as follows: Grace Arslanian, Dick Aurslanian, and George Sakian. Each committee will select a chairman from the group.

Since there was no old business, the Chairman called for new business. Ann Karayan announced that a program had recently been initiated whereby the children of the Church School will serve in the choir and on the altar as acolytes. She stated that this program will enable them to become more familiar with the church services and music and encourage them to serve as future Parish Council members, etc.

Ralph Chakerian stated that the Council felt that it would be desirable to increase annual church dues from \$20 to \$30. He stated that the amount received from dues has been representing a smaller percentage of the funds required for operating expenses over the past several years. He informed us that should this downward trend continue, we could be in financial straits in the near future. Following some discussion, Jack Hacherian made a motion, which was seconded by Alex Bagdasarian, to increase minimum annual dues from \$20 to \$30. The motion passed unanimously. A suggestion was made by Florence Karoghlanian that letters be sent to all parishioners advising of this action. Proper notification will be handled by Parish Council.

Kevork Arslanian suggested that we strive to increase our membership from the present 130 figure to 200 members. As a further suggestion, Martha Hacherian thought the Parish Council should concentrate on increasing the membership during the coming year and de-emphasize social functions which the other church organizations sponsor as well. She felt the Parish Council should be concerned primarily with business and cultural activities of the church.

Bob Bagdasarian commented on the Paros, stating that the publication appeared more professional than it had in the past. Everyone was in agreement on this. He felt that since the cost of printing and mailing amounted to approximately \$500 per year, it might be advisable to charge an annual subscription of \$2.00. There was some discussion, both pro and con, with the decision that we continue our present practice. It was brought out at this time that consideration should be given to making donations since this is primarily the only means of financing the Paros publication.

Fr. Diran announced that Requiem Services would be held on the first Sunday of each month only, unless required for 40-day services or other exceptions. This was generally accepted by the members. A question was raised as to the amount of money for Hokihonkist services. Father Diran advised there was no fixed amount for this service.

There was some discussion regarding the scheduling of future Annual Parish Meetings. After considerable discussion, it was felt that Friday was preferred since holding the meeting on Sunday made it an exceptionally long day for many of the parishioners. The discussion on this will be taken into consideration by the Parish Council when setting the date for next year's meeting.

At this point, Garbis Balderian asked what the requirements were for becoming a choir member in our church. This question created some discussion and Mickey Bagdasarian stated that the Parish Council is now considering a policy for choir membership.

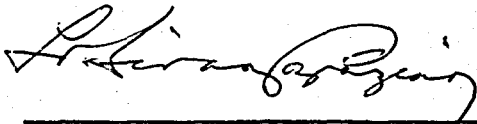
Fr. Diran thanked everyone for attending, Council members who terminated their term of office and the remaining Council members. He welcomed the new Parish Council members and expressed appreciation to the officers of the day. Fr. Diran stated that it might be advisable to send copies of the minutes from this meeting to all parishioners for their information. Parish Council will take this under consideration.

The meeting was closed at 11:55 p.m. with the benediction by Fr. Diran.

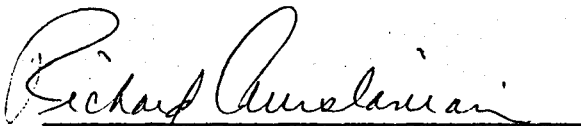
Respectfully submitted,



Alice Hacherian  
Secretary of the Day



Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian  
President



Richard Aurslanian  
Chairman of the Day