

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

Sunday, February 22, 1981

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church was called to order at 1:36 p.m., Sunday, February 22, 1981. Following the invocation by Father Diran, Alan Borazanian, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed the parishioners and expressed appreciation to those in attendance.

Florence Karoghlanian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, then proceeded with the roll call of dues-paying members. The total number of eligible voting members present was 42, which was subsequently increased to 44 due to late arrivals. Since over one-third of the 118 dues-paying members were present, this constituted a quorum in accordance with the By-laws of our Diocese.

Thelma Bagdasarian of the Nominating Committee presented the names for election of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary. Ballots for the election were distributed. The parishioners were advised that Anne Abdalian, a candidate for Assembly Secretary, was absent due to illness and, therefore, her name was eliminated. There were no nominations from the floor. The results of the secret ballot vote were as follows:

Chairman	-	Ralph Chakerian	(25)
		Richard Aurslanian	(18)
Secretary	-	Alice Hacherian	(40)

At this point, Jack Hacherian made a motion, which was seconded by Sam Mirakian, that we dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last Parish Assembly which are included in the Annual Parish Report. This motion was passed unanimously. Jack Hacherian also made a motion to accept the minutes as written. This motion was seconded by David Andonian and also unanimously passed.

A motion was then made by Thelma Bagdasarian that the Election, Item 12 on the Agenda, be the next order of business. Nat Mirakian seconded the motion, which passed. Jennie Kapoudjian made a motion that at future Annual Parish Assemblies, election of Parish Council members as well as the various committee members be held immediately following election of Chairman and Secretary of the Day. This motion was seconded by Thelma Bagdasarian and unanimously passed.

The meeting was then turned over to Kevork Arslanian and Thelma Bagdasarian of the Nominating Committee who distributed a specially prepared ballot for Parish Council members, Diocesan Delegates, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee, which greatly facilitated the voting. In addition to the names on the ballot, Jack Hacherian and Jennie Kapoudjian were nominated for the Auditing Committee. Their names were added to the ballot.

The five outgoing members of the Parish Council are Nat Arslanian, Meshac Aurslanian, Alan Borazanian, Armand Kazaros (deceased) and George Sakian. Three Parish Council members are to be elected inasmuch as Parish Council membership was reduced from 9 to 7 at last year's Parish Assembly. Ralph Chakerian praised the Nominating Committee for doing an outstanding job in preparing the slate of candidates.

\* See explanation concerning the total number of church membership on page 5.

The election results were as follows (\*elected):

PARISH COUNCIL

*George Sakian	(42)
*Alan Borazanian	(41)
*Nat Arslanian	(26)
John Borazanian	(12)
Sue Mirakian	( 6)

DIOCESAN DELEGATE

*Florence Geokjian	(31)
*Jack Hacherian	(24)
Martha Hacherian	(16)
Grace Arslanian	(13)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Sandra Aurslanian	(32)
*David Andonian	(22)
*Lucine Mirakian	(22)
Paul Arslanian	(21)
Jean Sakian	(19)
Alice Bagdasarian	(12)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

*Grace Arslanian	(35)
*Ara Bagdasarian	(20)
*Jennie Kapoudjian	(20)
Nat Mirakian	(16)
Jack Hacherian	(13)
Wanda Venditti	(13)
Mona Karoghlanian	( 4)

The Chairman asked if there were any questions or comments on the published reports of the Pastor and Parish Council. Florence Geokjian asked if the Long-Range Planning Committee is part of the Parish Council; and requested status of the Ladies' Auxiliary project to refinish the doors to the entrance of the Church. Alan Borazanian advised that the Long-Range Planning Committee is a part of the Parish Council. David Andonian said that the delay in the completion of the Ladies' Auxiliary project was his fault and that he would be willing to go over the details of the drawings, etc., with the Ladies' Auxiliary at an early date.

A recommendation was made by Jack Hacherian that when the Primate visits Cleveland, the heads of all Church organizations should be invited to meetings or gatherings so that the entire parish is represented. Parish Council Chairman felt this was a valid recommendation and would be followed in the future.

The Financial Report was the next order of business. The Chairman, who previously served as Treasurer of the Council, commented on the excellent report submitted by Florence Karoghlanian, Treasurer.

Sam Mirakian requested the status of the property located on Payne Avenue. Alan Borazanian advised that a number of problems had been encountered with this property, including a fire, but that a tentative settlement was being negotiated and a decision

will soon be reached. He also advised that approximately \$40,000 should be realized from the sale of this property. Alan Borazanian and the Parish Council were complimented for consummating the sale which included a great many time-consuming details.

Nat Mirakian made a motion that we accept the Financial Report submitted by Parish Council. Sue Mirakian seconded the motion which was unanimously passed.

Next on the agenda was the Proposed Budget for 1981. A question was raised as to the increased expenditure for Paros printing. The increase was due to additional wages being paid for secretarial help, as well as increased costs for printing, postage, etc. Also questioned was the proposed income of \$25,000 from Cultural Hall rental. The Treasurer advised that the rental charge had been increased from last year.

Alan Borazanian then presented the Parish Council's proposal that dues be increased from \$52.00 to \$76.00 per year. He explained that \$24.00 for each due-paying member is required by the Diocese and it was felt that the remaining \$52.00 should be retained in our treasury. After considerable discussion on this subject, a motion was made by David Andonian, seconded by Jennie Kapoudjian, that Parish Council's proposal to increase dues to \$76.00 be accepted. The motion was passed by majority vote.

A motion was then made by Ann Karayan that any adult, 18 to 21 years of age, pay only the minimum requirement to be considered a dues-paying member. This was seconded by David Andonian and also passed by majority vote.

The Parish Council emphasized that dues must be paid by December 31 inasmuch as a list of names must be submitted to the Diocese and we are assessed for the total number submitted. Father Diran stated that the community will be informed of the changes affecting the amount and payment of dues.

Jack Hacherian made a motion, seconded by Martha Hacherian, that the Proposed Budget for 1981 be accepted as submitted. This was unanimously passed.

Reports of the Church auxiliary organizations then followed:

- (a) Ladies' Auxiliary - No discussion.
- (b) Women's Guild - No discussion.
- (c) ACYOA (Seniors) - Thelma Bagdasarian requested clarification concerning expense for Christmas tree which was included on both the Senior and Junior ACYOA reports. Lisa Aurslianian, Chairman, Junior Group, stated that it was in error and will be adjusted in their respective Treasurer's reports.
- (d) ACYOA (Juniors) - Jack Hacherian, Youth Director, stated that one of the problems for the Juniors is the lack of support by parents to bring the children to meetings and other activities, and he asked that parents be more supportive in the future. At this point, Lisa Aurslianian thanked both Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hacherian for their efforts and total support during the past year.
- (e) Church Choir - No discussion.
- (f) Church Sunday School - No discussion.

The Diocesan Delegate's Report was brought up for discussion. Kevork Arslanian did not attend the last Diocesan Assembly but did comment on the fact that Canada will become a separate diocese. This should alleviate a major responsibility for our Primate insofar as the size of our diocese is concerned.

Florence Karoghlanian commented that it is not always practical or convenient for the Primate to visit our parish annually. She suggested that when the Primate is not available for an annual visit, that a representative from the Diocese visit Cleveland. Father Diran advised that visits may be possible by Diocesan representatives in our area.

As old business, Jennie Kapoudjian asked about the status of the Senior Citizens Project. David Andonian reported that nothing concrete had been done on the project since the last Parish Assembly. He said that due to present high interest rates, it was not feasible to pursue the project at this time.

Jack Hacherian made a motion that we hold a special Parish Meeting before June 1, 1981, so that the Long-Range Planning Committee report could be reviewed and priorities established. Motion was seconded by Jennie Kapoudjian and passed by majority vote.

The Chairman then asked the Assembly for new business. Alan Borazanian stated a proposal by the Parish Council that we eliminate the use of taper candles during requiem services due to the wax buildup on the pews and floor of the Church. After some discussion, the proposal was modified with the suggestion that candles be distributed only to members of the family requesting requiem services. Mention of this change will be made by Father Diran at Church services and in the Paros before the proposed procedure is adopted.

Alan also advised the Assembly that Father Diran has proposed to the Primate that after ten years' assignment to our parish (end of October 1982), he would like to retire or be reassigned. Parish Council has written to the Primate and has formed a search committee to locate a replacement by the end of 1982. The search committee is comprised of Father Diran, David Andonian, Kevork Arslanian, Nat Arslanian, Armen Asadourian, Bob Bagdasarian and Florence Karoghlanian. The ultimate decision will be made by our Primate.

Parish Council is planning to move the Martyr's Monument to a more suitable site on our grounds. Kevork Arslanian is currently consulting with Kotecki Monuments regarding this project. Carlos Bozoklian will be contacted inasmuch as he offered his assistance.

Another announcement was that the Parish Council is presently having a permanent brick and stone sign built for placement in front of the Church in memory of Garbis Balderian. Completion is expected by the end of April with dedication probably taking place early in June.

Alan Borazanian was pleased to announce that Nat Arslanian and Armen Asadourian of the Parish Council have agreed to undertake the co-chairmanship of the Bazaar this year. Nat and Armen feel this is a very worthwhile project from a financial standpoint and also for getting people in the community involved. The general consensus was that the project should be undertaken; however, the final decision was postponed until the co-chairmen have an opportunity to contact persons in the community regarding their interest and participation on Bazaar committees.

Following the announcements by the Parish Council Chairman, Ralph Chakerian inquired about any constitutional changes or resolutions which our Diocesan Delegates should submit at the Diocesan Assembly. The following changes were proposed:

- (1) Section 14.B . . . . . The Nominating Committee shall prepare lists of candidates, double the number of vacancies, where possible, for the election of the Parish Council, Auditing Committee . . . . .

(Constitutional change: underscored portion to be added)

- (2) That the Diocesan Calendar be mailed in sufficient time to be received before the new year begins.

(Resolution)


Ara Bagdasarian commented on Father Diran's remarks in the Epilogue portion of the Pastor's Annual Report, namely, general apathy prevailing throughout the community. Ara felt that more people should get involved in the community, and that we should concentrate on ways and means to bring our younger parishioners into church and church-related activities. He thought it might be a good idea to approach our youth and ask them what they want. Ann Karayan, Church School Superintendent, advised that there are several church-related activities in which the youth can get involved. Ralph Chakerian suggested a committee be selected to look into this and make suggestions to the Parish Council to improve this situation. Alan Borazanian stated that the Parish Council is well aware of the problem.

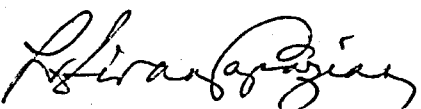
Following the conclusion of the above business, Father Diran delivered a brief Pastor's message. He commented on the remarks in the Epilogue, which generated much discussion among those present. Father Diran felt it was a good suggestion that a committee be formed to look into the problem of church participation, primarily insofar as attendance at church services is concerned.


The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m., following the closing prayer, benediction and Hayr Mer.

(\*) Those who did not meet their minimum requirement of membership dues for 1980 are excluded from the membership, giving us a revised total of 102.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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 Alice Hacherian  
 Assembly Secretary

  
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 Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian  
 President

  
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 Ralph Chakerian  
 Assembly Chairman