

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

Sunday, February 26, 1984

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church of Cleveland was called to order at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, February 26, 1984, at the Armenian Cultural Hall, presided by Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, Pastor of the Church. Following the Invocation by Fr. Diran; the Chairman of the Parish Council, Dick Aurslanian, welcomed the parishioners. He complimented the Parish Council members and presented each with a gift.

A roll call of dues-paying members was taken by Florence Karoghlianian, Treasurer of the Parish Council. Thirty-three (33) members were present out of a total membership of 101 eligible voting members. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a majority that the number in attendance would constitute a quorum; two voted against.

The meeting was turned over to the Nominating Committee. Mary Arslanian took charge with the help of Sandy Aurslanian and Eileen Hacherian. Ballots were passed out for election of Assembly Chairman and Secretary with the following results:

<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
* Sam Mirakian (25)	* Janis Nazarian (30)
Martha Hacherian (6)	Nat Mirakian (1)

Appreciation was extended to Jean Sakian and Sandy Aurslanian for the lunch they had prepared for the assembly members.

A motion was made by James Nazarian and seconded by John Borazanian to accept the minutes of the 1983 Parish Assembly as printed in the Annual Report.

Next on the agenda was the election of members to the Parish Council. The four outgoing Parish Council members were Florence Karoghlianian, Robert Bagdasarian, Dick Aurslanian and Armen Asadourian. Following are the results of the election by secret ballot:

* Dave Andonian (29)	Sandra Aurslanian
* Abraham Arslanian (33)	Robert Bagdasarian
* Florence Karoghlianian (31)	Jennie Kapoudjian
* James Nazarian (33)	Sam Mirakian

*Elected

Dick Aurslanian, the Chairman of the Parish Council, thanked Florence Goekjian for her fine job as Diocesan Delegate.

Dick Aurslanian welcomed the new members of Parish Council and announced that they are welcome to attend the meetings to acquaint themselves with the proceedings until they are confirmed and recognized officially by the Primate.

Election results for the Nominating Committee were as follows:

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| * Arlene Arslanian (33) | Ann Karayan (1) |
| * Mae Hatchadourian (32) | Thelma Bagdasarian |
| * Sue Mirakian (33) | Paul Arslanian |

Election results for the Auditing Committee were:

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| * Cheryl Asadourian (28) | Alice Hacherian |
| * Jack Hacherian (31) | |
| * Jennie Kapoudjian (29) | |

The Pastor's Annual Report, the Parish Council Report and the Parish Council's Financial Report were unanimously accepted as printed in the Annual Report.

Jennie Kapoudjian made a motion that the proposed budget be accepted as in the Annual Report but that next year the disbursements include particular disbursements. James Nazarian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A point of interest was explained by the Treasurer, that the Certificates of Deposit were mainly from special donations, such as in lieu of flowers.

The Diocesan Delegate, Florence Goekjian, asked for guidance in reference to the consideration being given to the creation of sub-dioceses as mentioned in her report. Fr. Diran was asked to give his opinion about this matter. He said he felt that it was only a concept as yet and that it was financially not practical at this time. Armen Asadourian made a motion, seconded by Lucine Mirakian, that in the case that our diocesan delegate is asked to vote on supporting the sub-diocese concept, she should not support it unless new facts are presented in favor of the concept. Thirteen (13) voted for; seven (7) voted against; and thirteen (13) abstained.

David Andonian made a motion that the following reports be accepted as printed in the Annual Report: (1) Diocesan Delegate, (2) Ladies Auxiliary, (3) Armenian Women's Guild, (4) ACYOA Seniors, (5) ACYOA Juniors, (6) Armenian Church Choir, and (7) Armenian Church Sunday School. This motion was seconded by John Borazanian and passed unanimously.

Under old business Jack Hacherian made a motion, which was seconded by John Borazanian that the church members hold a meeting in mid-year to take care of some of the business crowding the agenda of the Annual Meeting. Dick Aruslanian explained that the extensive planning of Fr. Diran's 25th anniversary banquet prohibited Parish Council's ability to hold a mid-year meeting in 1983. Ann Karayan suggested the mid-year meeting be held on the day of the Annual Picnic and Martha Hacherian suggested August. The Chairman requested the actual date remain open for Parish Council's discretion. The majority vote passed the motion, with one opposing.

The state of the Parish House was discussed. Dick Aruslanian explained the Parish House was found to be unsound based on professional opinion. Parish Council will appoint a committee to study the feasibility of having it torn down and the future plans for the property. A status report will be presented at the mid-year meeting.

Under new business George Sakian asked where we stand on a diocesan level concerning endowment funds and their benefiting St. Gregory. Florence Goekjian, Diocesan Delegate, explained there are formulated diocesan endowment funds at the present time. If we were to make our own, it would have to be approved by the Diocese. Sam Mirakian interjected that through the local benefactor's fund St. Gregory benefits more directly.

Kevork Arslanian made a motion that for the 20th anniversary of St. Gregory, at which time the Primate would be present, that the Parish Council nominate a group of volunteers to clean up and beautify the exterior of the church. Sue Mirakian suggested all church organizations be approached to help in the beautification and seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

James Nazarian questioned Fr. Diran's disposition in reference to his transfer. Members of the special committee to search for a new priest explained that they were not active at this time because the Primate would not consider a new priest for St. Gregory until Fr. Diran's position is open. Fr. Diran explained that he does not know when his transfer might be. James Nazarian suggested that the special committee to search for a new priest be reactivated with proper procedures. Wanda Vendetti added Fr. Diran should be active in the search committee. Fr. Diran said the diocesan delegate should also be included. Alan Borazanian stated proper procedures had been adhered to in their search and candidates considered but the Primate's directive had stopped them until the Priest's position is open. Robert Bagdasarian added it was a sensitive matter and the Primate would not approve their negotiations until Fr. Diran's position was definite. Until then there will not be a commitment.

Fr. Diran added, only the Primate could answer these questions. He is ready to go on to new grounds and his wife's status in a transfer is unknown, but he feels he will need 3 months notice prior to transfer. Jack Hacherian suggested that when the Primate visits Cleveland, the Parish Council meet and discuss this matter with him.

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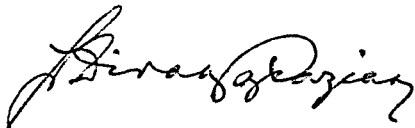
Lucille Andonian made a motion, seconded by Wanda Vendetti that a bulletin board be purchased from the capital improvement fund for the lobby of the Cultural Hall. It should be a well-made, enclosed case with a plexiglass front. Seventeen (17) voted for; three (3) against.

At the conclusion of the business meeting the Pastor gave a short message. He thanked and complimented those present as well as the committees who had discharged their responsibilities so well. He expressed his special thanks to the retiring members of Parish Council and welcomed the new members mentioning the challenge of doing God's work together. He was unhappy last year with the church attendance and lack of volunteers. His conclusion is that the community has lost the worshipping aspect of their religion. He asked that each person reflect on if they are doing their part. We should also all explore who is available to attend church and ask why they're not coming. The ceremonies of marriage, baptism and funeral are also all functioning but the worshipping aspect of the church is missing. The church should offer comfort and uplift to us. We were asked to look beyond the easy answer of using the Pastor as a scape goat and consider the many reasons why the attendance is down. Not to take a position for or against the Pastor but to consider the church first in our minds. The Church can function properly when all committees work together as one body in the same way that our bodies function.

The Parish Assembly was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. following the Benediction by Fr. Diran.

Respectfully submitted,


Janis Nazarian
Assembly Secretary



Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian
President


Sam Mirakian
Assembly Chairman

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