

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. GREGORY OF NAREK ARMENIAN CHURCH, CLEVELAND, OHIO

MARCH 5, 1995

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Parish Council Chairman, Mona Karoghlanian. Deacon-in-Charge Norman Odabashian opened the meeting with a special prayer for the deceased members of our church. He also gratefully acknowledged Parish Council and other individuals who volunteer their services for their hard work and dedication.

Mona Karoghlanian, Parish Council Chairman, gave her welcoming remarks also thanking all of the volunteers who serve our church.

David Andonian, Treasurer, took roll call and 49 dues paid members were in attendance which is over 1/3 of the membership. This constituted a quorum.

Next, the Nominating Committee (Lucille Andonian, Anita Arpajian, and Russ Arslanian) conducted the election for Chairman and Secretary of the Day taking additional nominations from the floor.

Chairman of the Day

Richard Aurslanian

Archie Andonian (from the floor)

Secretary of the Day

Leslie Bagdasarian

Serop Demirjian (from the floor)

Mona Karoghlanian noted that the 1994 Assembly Minutes needed to be approved. Jack Hacherian made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Grace Arslanian. Motion passed unanimously.

George Sakian gave a report on the funds collected for the Cultural Hall rental. The past due amount of \$18,000 from last year was collected and the caterer is now current. In 1994, the caterer booked 66 single and 4 double events, her brother 4 events. Our church used the hall 44 times.

At this point, the Nominating Committee announced that Richard Aurslanian was elected Chairman of the Day and Leslie Bagdasarian, Secretary of the Day. The Nominating Committee then took nominations from the floor to complete the slate for (5) Parish Council members to be elected:

Mona Karoghlanian

David Andonian

Robert Bagdasarian

Thelma Bagdasarian

Naz Yessayan

Sonia Elloian (from the floor)

Libby Kaye Zadnik (from the floor)

Lucille Andonian (from the floor)

Anita Arpajian (from the floor)

Mae Hatchadorian (from the floor)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sewer Update - Ara Bagdasarian (see report following)

Ara had prepared a detailed report about the sewer issue including property drawings for the education of the parish members. He added that on February 9, Whitlatch expressed an interest in purchasing approximately 3 acres at the rear of our property. He stated that in 1996, we will be required to have sanitary sewers and we had a study done to see which option would make more sense for us. To tie in with the Whitlatch Development's sewer would cost \$42,000 and to wait for the city's along Richmond Rd. would be \$65,000. Additional details are given in the attached report.

Mona Karoghlanian also noted that a decision on these issues will first require a 2/3 church membership approval, then an approval from the Primate and Diocesan Council.

A discussion followed regarding how much property we would gain if the culvert was covered along one or both sides of our property and possible uses for it, such as a picnic pavilion or additional parking. Several members also stressed the importance of the church having a long-range plan and definite goals in mind for our church's future.

Ara thanked the Property Committee for all of their hard work and also stressed the importance of long-range planning. Alan Borazanian was also specially recognized for his help with the legal aspect of this issue and Ara said he would formally thank him.

The Nominating Committee returned and announced that the following individuals would be serving one-year (1 yr.) and two-year (2 yr.) terms on Parish Council:

Mona Karoghlanian (2 yr.)

David Andonian (1 yr.)

Robert Bagdasarian (2 yr.)

Thelma Bagdasarian (1 yr.)

Naz Yessayan (2 yr.)

Next, the Nominating Committee took nominees for Auditing Committee from the floor:

Archie Andonian

Alice Hacherian (from the floor)

Jay Bagdasarian

Grace Arslanian (from the floor)

Cindy Russell

Serop Demirjian (from the floor)

The Nominating Committee returned to announce the elected Auditing Committee members for next year: Archie Andonian, Jay Bagdasarian, and Cindy Russell.

Nominating Committee nominees were all from the floor:

Sandy Aurslanian

Nina Setrakian

Arek Torosian

Anna Karayan

Haig Arpajian

Dina Aurslanian

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Church Property Beautification: Mary Arslanian brought up the issue of the church property's neglected landscaping and the question of whether the interest from Kevork and Vergin Arslanian's Endowment Fund was supposed to be earmarked for beautifying the property. Kevork Arslanian clarified that at first our former pastor, Father Kondralian had inspired him to create such a fund but that now he leaves the decision of what to do with the money to Parish Council.

Leslie Bagdasarian announced that she was putting together a plan to re-do some of the landscaping around the cultural hall and church and that she would present a cost report to Parish Council. She also mentioned that the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors had expressed interest in helping with the project and that any other interested parishioners were welcome.

The idea of dedicating greenery to deceased loved ones was brought up by Louise Demirjian and Alice Hacherian mentioned that church property beautification might be a fine purpose for Oskey Balderian's Endowment Fund.

A discussion followed about how funds that are donated to the church with a specific designation are used by the Parish Council.

A motion was made by Sam Mirakian that states if Parish Council accepts a gift then the intention of the donor will be honored and that the Parish Council cannot put these funds into the General Fund without that donor's permission. The motion was seconded by George Sakian and was passed.

2. Church Membership: Anna Karayan mentioned the possibility that some of the immigrants from Baku/Armenia might be interested in becoming members of the church. She asked that because of their financial situation, that we might think of giving them a reduced dues rate. She also suggested encouraging them to form their own group to perhaps help bridge the communication/cultural gap that now exists. Mona Karoghlanian mentioned that Parish Council is concerned about this issue and that the immigrants will be invited to Parish Council meetings and other changes will also occur this year. Dina Aurslanian stated how people by nature find it more comfortable belonging to a small group at first and then moving to a larger one. Diratzoo also added that a Membership Committee is already taking shape.

Diratzoo made several community announcements regarding Lenten, Womens' Guild and ACYOA events coming up.

3. Reduced Dues for Senior Citizens: Jack Hacherian pointed out that a large number of members over 65 are still working and therefore shouldn't be allowed the 50% dues reduction. He stated that the reduction was for people that were too ill or old with a limited income. Sam Mirakian said that the Diocese needed to clarify the guidelines for senior citizens regarding dues. David Andonian mentioned that in 1993, it was decided to grant the 50% reduction but that Diratzoo and Parish Council had to decide if a person was eligible. Thelma Bagdasarian asked what the Diocesan assessment per member was from our dues. Mona Karoghlanian read the 1993 Minutes to clarify how we had voted on the issue and then addressed Thelma's question. She said that the Diocesan assessment per member was very complicated and that it was based on many different factors aside from church membership.

The Nominating Committee returned to announce the elected Nominating Committee members for next year: Sandy Aurslanian, Arek Torosian, and Dina Aurslanian. Russell Arslanian commented that he was glad to see younger people on the Nominating Committee for next year and that more young people need to get involved to insure the future of our church.

Serop Demirjian presented the Parish Council reports and they were approved. He also noted that a Investment Committee had been formed to preserve the church's capital and increase the yield of its funds.

David Andonian presented the Treasurer's Report and 1995 Budget and answered questions from several parishioners. Mona Karoghlanian stated that a Fundraising Committee would be formed to account for the proposed \$7500 in income for 1995 and stated that the Rug Sale would not be taking place this year. Jack Hacherian moved that we accept the 1995 Budget and Arek Torosian seconded. Motion passed.

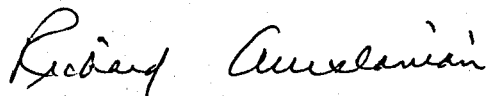
Jack Hacherian commented on his Diocesan Delegate report. He specifically referred to the important upcoming elections for the new Catholicos. He stated that Rose Mekenian will be one of the special delegates participating in the election on April 3. Leslie Bagdasarian asked who the candidates were but Jack could not say at this time.

Dick asked for comments on the remaining Parish Auxiliary reports, there were none. A motion was made by Louise Demirjian to accept them and Thelma Bagdasarian seconded, motion passed.

Dick closed the meeting with a few remarks.

Diratzoo closed the meeting with a prayer at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard Aurslanian

Chairman of the Day



Leslie Bagdasarian

Secretary of the Day