

Ss. Joachim & Anne Armenian Church Annual Parish Assembly: January 28, 1996

Current Parish Council attending the Annual Parish Assembly were: Chairman Dennis VanderMeer, Vice-Chairman Richard Nabandian, Treasurer Sona Dumanian, Assistant Treasurer Virginia Bogosian, Arakel Arakelian, Paul Mardoian, Gary Mazian and Paul Simonian. Dr. Norayr Madanyan was absent.

I. Preliminaries:

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 P.M. by Dr. Garbis Meguerian, Chairman of the last Parish Assembly. Fr. Tavit Boyajian, our Pastor, gave the opening prayer.

The roll call of members, quorum was established: out of the 102 dues paying members, 49 were present.

II. Election of the Assembly Officers:

A. Chairman of the Assembly: Dr. Ara Yeretsian & Dr. Garbis Meguerian were nominated; Dr. Meguerian was elected.

B. Secretary; Sonia Harlan was nominated and elected.

C. Parliamentarian: Garbis Meguerian asked that Dr. Raffy Hovhannessian be appointed. Raffy accepted.

III. Nominations for the election of the new officers to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

Garbis wanted the names of the nominees for these election be placed on the board at this time as to give time for people to think about their votes.

A. Nominees for the Parish Council (for five vacancies):

Dennis VanderMeer
Sonia Dumanian
Richard Nalbandian
Paul Mardoian
Elizabeth Sahagian
Sarkis Boyajian (nominated from the floor)**

** (Mr. Boyajian had a prepared statement which he read: as a candidate for Parish Council, he stated his conviction that those who do run for this position should not take it lightly; rather with a great deal of conviction to uphold neutrality in all church affairs.

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B. Nominations for the Nominating Committee (for four vacancies):

There was a motion from the floor (by Richard Nalbandian) that instead of four, the Nominating Committee consist of three members in the future. The motion was defeated.

nominees were:

Anna Giragosian
Martha Auer (nominated from the floor)
Karen Nalbandian
Sonia Harlan (nominated from the floor)

C. Nomination for the Auditing Committee (for one vacancy):

nominees were:

Jay Harlan
Norayr Madanyan
Peggy Enokian Mason

IV. REPORTS:

Dr. Raffy Hovhanessian requested that the minutes from last Special Assembly (September 1995) be read. That report had not been included in the Annual report and was not available at this time.

The meeting proceed with the reading and discussion of the current reports:

A. Pastor's Report: Derhayr thanked everyone for their support during this first year of his assignment to Ss. Joachim & Anne. He thanked on behalf of Yeretsgeen Tirouhi and their son Gregory, too. He continued his remarks, "I have found tremendous dedication here...tremendous love of God and church. The next year's focus would be bringing the young couples closer to the church. I believe we have tremendous opportunity for growth." Similarly, he will make every effort to bring non-members to participate more in our church; ACYOA would be reactivated this Spring. He also encouraged parishioners to attend Bible Studies. Parishioners acknowledged their appreciation of Derhayr's work and leadership with a nice round of applause.

Questions: "Would little girls be allowed to serve on the altar?" Derhayr said yes, they would.

B. Parish Council Chairman's Report: Parish Council Chairman Dennis VanderMeer reiterated Der Tavit's thoughts for growth. He mentioned how this year's council had worked so hard toward putting the church on a financial even keel so that now the focus can be expanded to include special efforts to bring the younger generations closer to the church. "It is time, that each one of us be involved in bringing younger generations to our church. It is essential for the survival of our church. Each one of us need to get involved according to the special gift God has given to us." Dennis thanked his Parish Council for a good year; he thanked all the parishioners for their support. Parishioners acknowledged their appreciation of Dennis' and the Parish Council's leadership with applause.

C. The portion of the **Treasurer's Report** which is included with the Chairman's report: Sona Dumanian referred to the figures appearing on p. 21 of the Annual Report. Her report was accepted unanimously without discussion.

D. Women's Guild Report: Anna Giragosian, WG's Treasurer, read the Guild report as it appeared on page 10-12 of the Annual Parish Assembly Booklet. At this time, the Guild turned over the sum of \$11,000 to the church.

Special thanks were expressed to Mrs. Alice Boyajian and her baking committee: This hard-working group of ladies single handedly increased the church's revenues by a minimum of \$3000.

The Guild's books have not yet been audited.

E. Sunday School Report: Treasurer, Karen Nalbandian presented the report as it appeared on page 15-16 of the Annual Parish Assembly Booklet. \$4000 was turned over to the Church as of this date.

Sunday School attendance: Even though the year started with 48 kids, attendance is down. Superintendent, Alice Boyajian thought the parents should be encouraged to assume direct responsibility in keeping the kids coming to S.S. An observation by Paul Mardoian--maybe a token "Kids' Membership" can be instituted so as to bond the children better to the church. Dennis VanderMeer observed that, while the children are in Sunday School, some of the parents spend time socializing in the hall. He would like to see the parents set a good example and join the congregation in the sanctuary. Sonia Harlan shared her concern that the kids are not being exposed to the Armenian sermon at all. She urged those involved in the Sunday School explore ways (with Derhayr) it could be made attractive for the kids to hear the Armenian sermon.

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F. Senior Citizens Report: Sue Semerjian referred everyone to the figures on page 16 of the Annual Parish Assembly Booklet. The sum of \$2000 was turned over to the church from this group.

G. The Choir Report: Dr. Susan Mardoian presented her report as it appeared on page 17 of the Annual Parish Assembly Booklet. The Choir has turned over \$2500 to the church (revenues from the Choir Assembly.) An additional sum of \$500 (of the same revenues) will be kept in the Choir's treasury so as to insure future activities of our Choir members within the Diocesan Choir Association.

Virginia Bogosian suggested that the \$500 be turned to the Parish Council and appear in the parish budget as earmarked for the Choir. This way these moneys would earn interest. Susan Mardoian was agreeable to that suggestion.

Susan expressed the need to have an assistant choir director and an assistant organist. Martha Auer, our organist, agreed. The Choir needs back-up people.

Sonia Harlan thanked & commended Dr. Susan Boyajian and her Choir Assembly Committee for a job well-done. Parishioners acknowledged their appreciation of Susan's work with applause.

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

Fr. Tavitt thanked Sonia Harlan for all her assistance in parish matters during her tenure as Diocesan Regional Program Coordinator. He informed the parish that, due to budget cuts at the Diocesan level, this position was cut back from the Diocesan staff. Parishioners acknowledged their appreciation of Mrs. Harlan with applause.

Dr. Raffy made an observation that any moneys donated from our parish organizations to any Diocesan organizations be done so by the approval of the Parish Council. Liz Sahagian responded to Raffy's comment that small sums are automatically approved according to past resolutions that have been taken by our Parish Council; that the only moneys sent from the Guild to the Diocese has been to CASP and that is governed by the same by-laws as our Diocese and our church; that the only time a large sum of money went out to a non-Diocesan organization--namely, the AGBU, for purchase of grain for Armenia-- was with the approval of the Parish Council.

Dennis VanderMeer observed that, in the past, the Council has asked each organization to prepare a budget for itself as a gage for their annual operation. Such a measure would make life more manageable, more predictable, when the Parish Council is preparing its next year's budget. Dr. Ara Yeretsian voiced a similar opinion.

VI. The 1996 BUDGET:

Sona Dumanian referred everyone to follow the prepared budget as it appeared on p. 22-23 of the Annual Parish Assembly Booklet.

Discussion:

A. regarding parking-lot expenses and the special \$100/member assessment to build a parking-lot fund:

The question was asked by Dr. Raffy Hovhannessian whether it would be productive to publish the list of 45 members who have not contributed moneys toward the parking lot repair special fund. The Parish Council informed him that quarterly statements are continuously sent out to the membership. This has not catapulted those into paying if their intention was to ignore the parking lot assessment. According to Der Tavit, this issue was discussed at the Parish Council level. Parish Council decided not to publish current status of members' dues/ assessments/ contributions/ stewardship, etc. by name. Suggestions from the floor continued to implore the Parish Council to look further into this matter--the possibility of publishing those names who have responded to the special assessment was also mentioned.

Sona Diorio suggested a positive approach. She made a motion that names of those who have committed moneys for the parking lot and have paid, be published in the Ani newsletter; along with that, an "urgent" request for payment from those who have not paid be also published. The motion was passed.

Sonia Harlan made the motion that simultaneous to the publication of the list of those who have contributed their parking-lot assessment in the Ani, the Parish Council also publish a list of the names of those who have not paid. Raffy Hovhannessian amended Sonia Harlan's motion by suggesting that the two lists be published together but not appear in Ani; rather be sent as a separate letter to be mailed to only our dues-paying-members, so as not broadcast our church business to the greater public. Sona Diorio added to the motion that this letter be sent out within 90 days of the donors' list having appeared in the Ani newsletter. Motion was defeated.

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B. Questions and discussion about other expenses in the Assembly report:

It was pointed out that a discrepancy existed in the parking-lot repairs figures-- between the projected figures from two years ago and now. Dennis VanderMeer explained that the revised figure was the 31,000. Since the repairs had been postponed from the previous years, the Parish Council had gone ahead and collected other bids from other contractors. The bid that is reflected in the 1996 budget is from a company which has proposed to do the job in two "pours," and to do additional leveling as needed after the paving. Plus, this new bid includes a ten-year guarantee against standing water and other shortcomings from the job.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that altar flowers bills should always be sent to the Women's Guild--in the past few years, sometimes the bills had been paid by the Parish Council Treasurer.

Karneg Boyajian inquired about why the Parish Council had decided it was necessary to paint the sanctuary at this time. He also wondered if the leak on the roof was fixed prior to the painting. Arakel Arakelian, who is in charge of Building and Grounds, assured Mr. Boyajian that the leak was inspected before the painting of the sanctuary. Dennis VanderMeer explained the Parish Council felt that the sanctuary, hall, kitchen and bathrooms were painted (some areas needed painting more than the sanctuary but the painter presented a package deal which was affordable) because of the forthcoming Choir Assembly.

Der Tavit was asked if he thought he was able to handle the paperwork load the parish generated; or did he need a secretary? His response was that he was fine for now because a good many of his needs can potentially be met by volunteers from the parish. Raffy Hovhanessian made a motion that \$5000 be put in the 1996 budget for secretarial help, in case volunteers are not available and Derhayr needed a secretary. Motion was carried.

Regarding dues and Stewardship pledges: Garbis Meguerian brought to the Assembly's attention the fact that the past practice of publishing the donors list had the dues and pledge moneys coming in regularly. Now that the parish has stopped that practice, a good number of people have been delinquent in their payment. Raffy Hovhanessian made a motion that the Parish Council send a letter asking for new 1996 stewardship pledges to our membership. Sona Diorio seconded. The motion was carried. In the meantime the Parish council will be planning a phone pledge-campaign.

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Dr. Susan Boyajian suggested establishing a special, introductory, couples' membership fee--at a reduced rate of \$200 per couple--to entice young couples to join the church. The Parish Council will discuss this and make its recommendations to the next Assembly.

The 1996 budget was voted and carried.

VII. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS:

BALLOTS HANDED OUT BY ROLL-CALL

Those elected to the 1996 Parish Council:

Sona Dumanian--44 (elected)
Sarkis Boyajian--42 (elected)
Dennis VanderMeer--42 (elected)
Paul Mardoian--38 (elected)
Richard Nalbandian--38 (elected)
Liz Sahagian--21 (not elected)

Unanimous vote for the Nominating Committee slate:

Martha Auer, Anna Giragosian, Sonia Harlan, Karen Nalbandian

Auditing Committee votes:

Jay Harlan--28 (elected)
Norayr Madanyan--13 (not elected)
Peggy Enokian--7 (not elected)

VIII. Additional thanks and congratulations on a job-well-done:

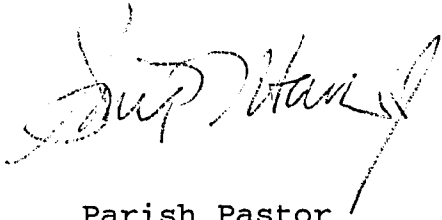
A. Parish Council Treasurer Sona Dumanian thanked Virginia Bogosian for her help as Assistant Treasurer.

B. Karneq Boyajian commended Dr. Raffy for the commendable job he did in arranging Catholicos Karekin I's visit to Chicago. He also wanted to commend Raffy and Vicki for having undertaken the \$1,000,000 fund-raising campaign for St. Nersess Seminary, and their own generous donation to this campaign. Parishioners acknowledged their appreciation of Susan's work with applause.

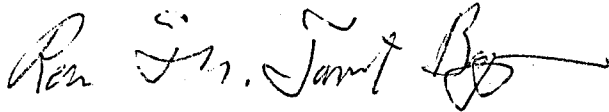
Ss. Joachim & Anne Annual Parish Assembly adjourned at 3:20 P.M.
Fr. Tavit offered the closing prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Assembly Secretary
Sonia Harlan



Parish Pastor
Rev. Fr. Tavit Boyajian



Assembly Chairman
Dr. Garbis Meguerian

