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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

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ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1999

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by Arnold Koresian, 1998 Assembly Chairman. Deacon Aren opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll call was taken by Charles Babikian. There were 40 paid members present of the total membership of 101.

Nominations for Assembly Chairman were opened by Linda Zakarian, member of the Nominating Committee. Nominees were Arnold Koresian and Armen Zakarian. Vote was taken and Armen Zakarian was elected. Linda Zakarian opened nominations for Assembly Secretary. Nominations were sought from the floor. Pauline Nahabedian and Dolores Tootooian were nominated, but both declined. There being no further nominations, Rose Tootooian, Assembly Secretary for 1998 was unanimously nominated and elected for 1999.

Corrections to the October 25, 1998 Parish Assembly minutes, which were not read, as copy of the minutes were mailed to members prior to today's meeting. George Nahabedian made motion to accept minutes. Seconded by Alice George. Motion was passed. Copy of minutes attached.

REPORT of the PASTOR:

Report was not read by Deacon Aren, as members received copy of the report prior to today's meeting. Deacon Aren thanked the Parish Council for their support this past year, and especially thanked Michelle Babikian, Parish Council Chairperson and Violet Koresian, Church Secretary. Deacon Aren stated at a recent Parish Council meeting, he was questioned about his willingness to remain here as our leader. He stated to the Assembly that he would stay here as long as we allowed him to stay. Alice George made motion to accept report as presented. Dolores Tootooian seconded. Motion was passed. Copy of report attached.

REPORT of the PARISH COUNCIL:

Report was not read by Michelle Babikian, Chairperson, as members received copy of report prior to meeting. Margaret Sarkesian made motion to accept report. Seconded by Charles Babikian. Motion was passed. Copy of report attached.

REPORT OF RESERVE FUND:

Garrick Abezitian, Church Treasurer, along with members of Reserve Fund, Haig Pedian and Dr. Hrach Hitik presented their report. The Reserve Fund balance at the end of December 31, 1997 was \$175,007.00

and at the end of December 31, 1998 the portfolio balance is \$197,943.00. Profit realized is \$22,936.00, showing a gain of 13.01%. In November 1998, \$98,000.00 was placed in a 6-month CD account at a rate of 5%. The balance remains in the Dow Fund. Balance of both accounts as of last week is \$198,925.00. John Paklaian made motion to accept the Reserve Fund report. Alice George seconded. Motion was passed. Copy of report attached.

REPORT OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

None of the following organization reports were read. Copies of their reports were mailed to members prior to meeting. See copies attached

WOMEN'S GUILD: Report by Margaret Sarkesian, Chairperson. Check for \$3,158.00 presented to Parish Council from Alice George, Guild Treasurer.

LADIES AUXILIARY: Report by Ann Arevian, Chairperson. Check presented to Parish Council for \$1,315.11.

NAIRI CHOIR: Report by George Nahabedian, Chairman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Report by Diane Abezetian, Superintendent.

REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE: Arnold Koresian, Armen Zakarian and Mathew Klujian, Jr.

Arnold Koresian stated the Auditing Committee found that the records of the Parish Council, Women's Guild and Nairi Choir were well prepared, complete and accurate. The Auditing Committee commended Garrick Abezetian for his excellent job in keeping the Church Treasury in such good order, which made their job so much easier. They also commended Alice George, Guild Treasurer and Helen Babikian, Nairi Choir Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF 1999 BUDGET:

Copies of the 1998 and 1999 Budget were distributed to all present. Cash position as of December 31, 1998 showed total assets as \$298,346.74. Garrick Abezetian addressed the assembly with an explanation of the 1998 expense account and the Budget Proposal for 1999. Alice George made motion to accept the 1999 Budget Proposal. Seconded by Jeffrey Wittmus. Motion was passed. Copy of Treasurers Report attached.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION:

The Nominating Committee, Linda Zakarian, May Nahabedian and Shirley Paloian, (in the absence of Shirley Paloian, Mathew Klujian, Jr., member of the Auditing Committee assisted) presented candidates for Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committee. Candidates were sought from the floor. Ballots for each election were taken. Four (4) members needed for Parish Council to serve 2-year term. Garrick Abezetian, Michelle Babikian, Harry Paloian and Gregory Tootooian were completing their 2-year term. Harry Paloian and Gregory Tootooian chose not to run again. Results were as follows:

Garrick Abezetian	(35)	Silva Karachorlu	(26)
Armen Zakarian	(34)	Jack Cholakian	(14)
Michelle Babikian	(28)		

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 3 members to be elected for a 1-year term. Results were as follows:

Rose Tootooian	(29)	George Nahabedian	(25)
Nancy Weiss	(27)	Mary Battle	(24)

AUDITING COMMITTEE: 2 members to be elected. Highest vote is a 3-year term. Next highest is for a 2-year term, to replace Armen Zakarian, who was elected to Parish Council. Mathew Klujian, Jr. has 1 year left. Results were as follows:

Martin Abezetian	(27)
Arnold Koresian	(21)
Alice George	(16)

OLD BUSINESS:

2001 Committee - Linda Zakarian, Chairperson, read the report of the "2001 Committee", which consists of 4 committees, i.e. Christian Education, Office Facilities, Kitchen Facilities and Lay Leadership. Copy of report attached.

RESERVE FUND:

Garrick Abezetian, Church Treasurer and Member of the Reserve Fund Committee, presented and read to the Assembly, a draft (prepared by the Reserve Fund Committee) outlining the guidelines for the Administration of the Reserve Fund Account. Jack Cholakian made a motion to accept proposal of the plan. Seconded by Haig Pedian. Motion passed unanimously.

George Nahabedian made a motion, since Fidelity Fund Account showed a balance in excess of \$95,000, to transfer \$50,000 to the Reserve Fund Account. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded motion. Motion was defeated by show of hands. Arnold Koresian amended the motion to reduce the amount to be transferred to \$25,000. Steve Tootooian seconded motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Dolores Tootooian made a motion to leave the Reserve Fund monies in the hands of the committee until the next Assembly Meeting. Second by Zabelle Abezetian. Motion passed unanimously.

RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE ELECTION:

2 to be elected. (1 for a 1 year term and 1 for a 2 year term) Results were as follows:

Haig Pedian	(21)	Arnold Koresian	(15)
Jack Cholakian	(21)	Dr. Hrach Hitik	(4)

Since there was a tie vote, rather than take another vote, Jack Cholakian volunteered to take the 1-year term and Haig Pedian was willing to take the 2-year term. Assembly approved.

MERGER:

Michelle Babikian, Parish Council Chairperson, read a letter dated December 18, 1998 from Barbara Boyajian, Parish Council Chairperson of St. James Armenian Church, Evanston, stating they no longer wish to pursue the merger.

NEW BUSINESS:

Stewardship Program - This is a plan proposed by Deacon Aren, along with George Nahabedian, to establish a program for church members to pledge a certain amount of money each year. George Nahabedian asked for volunteers from the Assembly to serve on the committee, along with himself, Deacon Aren and the Parish Council. Sylvia Raubolt and Arnold Koresian volunteered to serve on the committee. Alice George made motion to accept new members to the committee. Jack Cholakian seconded motion. Passed unanimously.

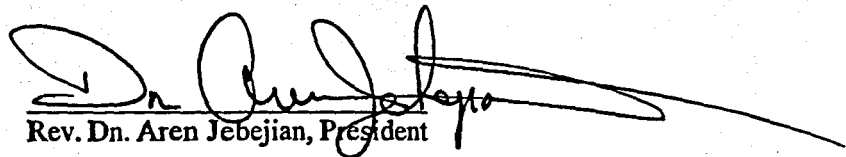
Jack Cholakian announced he is planning "A Night at the Races" as a fundraiser in the fall.

Martin Abezitian made a motion, directed to the Parish Council, to form a Building Committee of our young members. He stated we should start preparing for the future now, considering the change in neighborhood, demographics of our parishioners, etc. Motion was seconded by Jeffrey Wittmus. Motion passed unanimously.

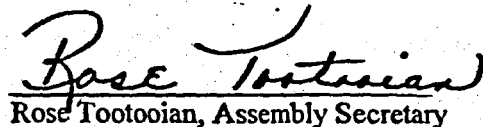
Before closing the meeting, Deacon Aren extended his personal thanks and appreciation to the Parishioners, i.e. Arnold Koresian, Assembly Chairman for the past 3 Assemblies, Armen Zakarian, Assembly Chairman, Haig Padian, Chairman of Reserve Fund, Garrick Abezitian for his professionalism as Church Treasurer, to the Choir, to the Sunday School, to the other church organizations and especially to the Parish Council, who met not only a monthly basis, but served the church on a weekly basis, and many times on a daily basis. Deacon Aren also congratulated and welcomed the newly elected members to the Parish Council, Sylva Karachorlu and Armen Zakarian and gave special thanks to the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Gregory Tootooian for his service for the past four years and to Harry Paloian for his service for the past two years.

Deacon Aren, along with John Paklaian, Sub-diaconate, let the Assembly in a Requiem Prayer for the 3 members who died this past year, Vartan Arkanian, Azniv Frankian and Barkev Hitik.

George Nahabedian moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Dolores Tootooian. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.


Rev. Dn. Aren Jebejian, President


Armen Zakarian, Assembly Chairman


Rose Tootooian, Assembly Secretary