

PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 16, 1992

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR  
ARMENIAN CHURCH - CHICAGO

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. George Nahabedian, Chairman of the 1991 Annual Assembly. Archpriest Rev. Fr. Haik Donikian led the assembly in prayer. All paid members were asked to sign in before the meeting. There were 41 paid members present of the total membership of 95 people. Treasurer Arnold Koresian declared there to be a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

Mr. George Nahabedian opened the floor for nominations for Assembly Chairman. Mr. Arnold Koresian nominated Mr. Kazar Kazarian. Mr. Armen Zakarian seconded the motion. Mr. Koresian moved to close the nominations. Mr. Zakarian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Kazar Kazarian was elected Assembly Chairman. Mr. Nahabedian opened the floor for nominations for Assembly Secretary. Mrs. Linda Zakarian was nominated by Mrs. Susu Klujian. Mr. Steve Tootooian seconded the motion. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Zakarian accepted the position of Assembly Secretary.

Mr. Kazarian called for the reading of the minutes from the 1991 Assembly. Mrs. Mrofcza read the minutes from the February 17, 1991 Parish Assembly. The following correction was noted: The minutes should read "the minutes from the 1991 Assembly". Mrs. Dolores Tootooian moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Ms. Violet Koresian seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Kazarian commended Mrs. Mrofcza for an excellent report.

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr. Armen Zakarian, Parish Council Chairman, read the report of the Parish Council. A copy of that report is attached.

REPORTS OF THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies Auxillary - Ms. Violet Koresian read the report of the Ladies Auxillary. A copy of that report is attached. The Ladies Auxillary then presented a check in the amount of \$4,000.00 to the Parish Council and another in the amount of \$100.00 to the Sunday School.

Women's Guild - Mrs. Dolores Tootooian, Women's Guild Chairman, read the report of the Women's Guild. A copy of that report is attached. Mrs. Tootooian then presented the Parish Council with a check in the amount of \$2,504.00.

Nairi Choir - Ms. Michelle Babikian explained that the Choir report would be presented to the Parish Council next week. Der Hayr suggested the report be printed in the next issue of the Loosavorich and that Ms. Babikian give a brief report summarizing the Choir's activities, which she did.

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Sunday School - Mrs. Mary Sommese, Sunday School Superintendent, explained to the assembly that there was nothing to report from the Sunday School that hasn't already been published in the Loosavorich. Mrs. Sommese did explain that the Sunday School account contained \$901.47 which has been collected for the purchase of an outdoor Nativity Scene.

Mr. George Nahabedian recommended that the reports of the church organizations be published in the Loosavorich. Mrs. Mary Dadian explained that this information is internal and should not be sent to the entire mailing list. Dr. Hitik said we should be proud and show everyone how successful all our organizations are. After some discussion Der Hayr suggested that the minutes from the previous Parish Assembly meeting, the reports of the church organizations, and the church's financial report be sent to all paid members one month before the Annual Parish Assembly meeting. Additions and corrections could then be made ahead of time and brought to the meeting. Mr. Kazarian explained that he would bring this up under New Business.

#### DIOCESAN DELEGATE REPORT

Mr. George Nahabedian reported that we will be the host Parish for the 1993 Diocesan Assembly. Three organizational meetings have taken place. The officers for the Assembly are: George Nahabedian, Chairman; Armen Zakarian, Vice Chairman; Christine LaForce, Corresponding Secretary; Pauline Nahabedian, Recording Secretary; and Steve and Delores Tootooian, Co-Treasurers.

Mr. Nahabedian announced the location of the Assembly would be at the Drake Hotel on Michigan Avenue. He explained that an Assembly this size is a huge undertaking and everyone's help is needed.

Mr. Nahabedian explained that Armen Zakarian and he attended the 1991 Assembly and that report was printed in the Loosavorich. Dr. Hitik asked what important decisions were made at the Assembly. What will be done for the youth? Mr. Nahabedian explained that no decision was made but the Diocese has addressed this issue and has set up a missionary program in which they will designate individuals to work with the youth.

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mathew Klujian Jr. presented the Auditing Committee Report and commended Treasurer, Arnold Koresian on an excellent job. After allowing time for the Assembly to examine the Treasurer's Report, questions were addressed. Mrs. Dorothy Koresian stated that under Cash Receipts, the picnic amount is a Net Amount and for all other Church affairs they are total income and don't include expenses. Mr. Koresian explained that these are Cash Receipts and all expenditures are listed on the Disbursement Sheet.

Dr. Hitik asked for the Treasurer's Report. It was explained by Der Hayr that this is a Treasurer's Report that was reviewed by the

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Auditing Committee. Mr. Nahabedian made a motion to accept the report of the Auditing Committee. Mr. Jack Cholakian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RESERVE FUND REPORT

Mr. Haig Pedian reported that the 1991 beginning balance in the Reserve Fund was \$149,071.26 and the total balance as of December 31, 1991 was \$161,036.98. This \$11,965.46 increase reflected an 8.2% return on our money.

1992 BUDGET

Mr. Arnold Koresian presented the proposed 1992 budget. He asked for questions from the Assembly. Dr. Hitik asked if the heating and air conditioning has been replaced and if so why it appears on the budget. Mr. Koresian explained that the work has not been done and it is the proposed amount.

Mrs. Agnes Pedian stated the Diocesan Assembly Committee suggested that renovations be made in the large hall, and asked where this was reflected in the budget. Mr. Armen Zakarian explained that the heating and air conditioning have to be taken care of immediately and nothing has been budgeted for renovations. He further explained that the Parish Council felt a committee should be formed to make recommendations concerning the extent of the renovations. That committee would then determine the costs involved and implementation.

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian stated that repairs on the heating and air conditioning should be considered repairs and money budgeted under Renovation Fund should not be used for this purpose.

Mrs. Susu Klujian questioned the \$1,000.00 expense listed under Diocesan Assembly. It was explained that this was the deposit for the Drake Hotel.

Dr. Hitik stated that our income is proposed to be \$70,000.00 and our proposed expenses are \$96,000.00. He proceeded to question where the money will come from. Mr. Koresian explained that everyone in our Parish must help with our fund raisers. As a point of clarification, Mr. George Nahabedian explained that we know where most of the money in the budget is coming from and it is up to us as a Parish to decide where and if any should come from the money market.

Mrs. Dolores Tootoian made a motion to accept the proposed 1992 budget. Mrs. Mary Sömmese seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Koresian thanked Ms. Naomi Nahabedian for her assistance in preparation of the paperwork for the budget.

Assembly Chairman Kazarian then called upon Ms. Michelle Babikian to preside over the Elections.

## ELECTIONS

Ms. Michelle Babikian presented three candidates for Parish Council. Ms. Babikian opened the floor for nominations and explained that there were three vacancies that needed to be filled. Mr. George Nahabedian spoke to the Assembly and explained that this was one of the most organized Parish Council the church has had. He asked that everyone consider taking this opportunity to serve their Parish. Ms. Agnes Eghoian nominated Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza. Mrs. Marge Sarkesian seconded the nomination.

At this time Assembly Chairman Kazarian adjourned the Assembly for a ten minute break.

The Assembly reconvened at 3:10.

Ms. Babikian asked for any other nominations. Mrs. Goldie George nominated Ms. Helen Paloian. Mrs. Mrofcza seconded the nomination.

Mr. George Nahabedian moved to close nominations. Mr. Armen Zakarian seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ms. Babikian then presented the following slate for the office of Parish Council.

1. Armen Zakarian
2. Jack Cholakian
3. Mary Dadian
4. Georgette Mrofcza
5. Helen Paloian

Ballots were passed and votes were collected by Roll Call.

Ms. Babikian presented three candidates for Auditing Committee. Ms. Babikian opened the floor for nominations and explained that there were three vacancies that needed to be filled. Mr. Arnold Koresian nominated Mr. Kazar Kazarian. Mr. Armen Zakarian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Susu Klujian nominated Mrs. Dolores Tootooian. Mrs. Dorothy Koresian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Annette Frankian nominated Mr. Sam Sommese. Ms. Violet Koresian seconded the nomination.

Mr. Zakarian explained that the Diocese made a change in regard to the structure of the Auditing Committee. It has been established that there will be one new member each year. In order to establish this in our Parish, Mr. Zakarian moved that this year the candidate with the highest number of votes will hold the three-year position, second highest will hold the two-year term, and third highest will hold the one-year term. Ms. Agnes Eghoian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Goldie George moved to close the nominations. Mr. John Paklaian seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ms. Babikian then presented the following slate for Auditing Committee.

1. Matt Klujian Jr.
2. Steve Tootooian
3. Mary Battle
4. Kazar Kazarian
5. Delores Tootooian
6. Sam Sommese

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Ballots were passed, and votes were collected by Roll Call.

While the votes were being tabulated, Ms. Babikian presented five candidates for the Nominating Committee. Ms. Babikian then opened the floor for nominations explaining that there were three positions to be filled. Mr. John Paklaian volunteered to be a candidate. Mrs. Agnes Pedian moved to close the nominations. Mrs. George seconded the motion and the carried.

Ms. Babikian presented the following slate for Nominating Committee.

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pauline Nahabedian | 4. Linda Zakarian   |
| 2. Michelle Babikian  | 5. Silva Karachorlu |
| 3. Susu Klujian       | 6. John Paklaian    |

Ballots were passed and votes were collected by Roll Call. At this time, Ms. Babikian reported the results of the Parish Council elections.

- |                      |          |         |
|----------------------|----------|---------|
| 1. Armen Zakarian    | 40 votes | Elected |
| 2. Georgette Mrofcza | 32 votes | Elected |
| 3. Mary Dadian       | 31 votes | Elected |
| 4. Jack Cholakian    | 13 votes |         |
| 5. Helen Paloian     | 6 votes  |         |

The results of the Auditing Committee elections were then announced.

- |                      |          |                            |
|----------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. Matt Klujian Jr   | 36 votes | Elected to three-year term |
| 2. Steve Tootooian   | 31 votes | Elected to two-year term   |
| 3. Kazar Kazarian    | 30 votes | Elected to one-year term   |
| 4. Mary Battle       | 16 votes |                            |
| 5. Delores Tootooian | 4 votes  |                            |
| 6. Sam Sommese       | 2 votes  |                            |

The results of the Nominating Committee elections were then announced.

- |                       |          |         |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|
| 1. John Paklaian      | 31 votes | Elected |
| 2. Silva Karachorlu   | 23 votes | Elected |
| 3. Pauline Nahabedian | 19 votes | Elected |
| 4. Susu Klujian       | 17 votes |         |
| 5. Linda Zakarian     | 17 votes |         |
| 6. Michelle Babikian  | 15 votes |         |

#### OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Hitik questioned the activity of the Cultural Committee. Der Hayr explained that such a committee is under the authority of the Parish Council. Mr. Zakarian stated that the committee should move ahead with any plans they may have. He asked that these plans be coordinated with the Parish Council to avoid conflicts.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Haig Pedian suggested the \$15,000.00 which is in the Renovation Fund be invested wisely. Dr. Hitik asked to transfer this money to the Reserve Fund for 8.2% interest. Mr. Jack Cholakian suggested the idea of investing the money into a higher risk higher yielding account. Mr. George Nahabedian explained that we are using the Parish's money and cannot take the risk. Mrs. Koresian asked where the extra money was. She didn't see having anything to invest. An explanation was made that stated that the \$15,000.00 from the Renovation Fund should be put into the Reserve Fund and then as expenses come up it would be paid from that account. Mrs. Koresian stated the Renovation Fund money is to be used for improvements, not to be put into the Reserve Fund and invested. Ms. Agnes Eghoian asked if there were any estimates for the work to be done on heating and air conditioning. Mr. Zakarian explained that heating repairs would cost between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00. Electrical repairs would cost about \$8,000.00. He also explained that kitchen and hall renovation has not been addressed. Mr. Koresian proposed that we take \$3,000.00 and transfer it to the Reserve Fund. Mr. Pedian explained that a percentage of our treasury must be added to the Reserve Fund according to the Bylaws. Mr. Nahabedian moved to transfer \$3,000.00 into the Reserve Fund. Mr. Koresian seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Ms. Violet Koresian reminded the Assembly that in order to take anything more than \$1,000.00 out of the Reserve Fund a Special Meeting must be called. Ms. Eghoian felt we shouldn't put our money into the Reserve Fund until we see what our expenses are. A vote was taken and the motion was defeated.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian explained that in the budget, Capital Expenditures should come under the heading of Proposed Expenditures. It was so noted and will be taken under advisement.

Dr. Hitik suggested our church have a second organist. He has spoken to Ms. Barbara Boyajian who will gladly help us. Mr. Zakarian thanked Dr. Hitik for his comment but explained that when the Parish Council met with the Choir, this was discussed and is being addressed. Ms. Boyajian's name will be taken under advisement.

Mr. Nahabedian mentioned that our church now needs a Deacon. Dr. Hitik asked if that person must be a member of our church. Der Hayr said he did not. Mr. Gosgharian's name was suggested as someone willing to serve. Der Hayr explained that he has spoken with him.

Mr. Nahabedian moved that reports of all the church organizations be sent to paid members of the Parish before the Parish Assembly. Dr. Hitik seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ms. Violet Koresian asked that all members pay their dues before the annual meeting. She reminded everyone that the year ends on Dec. 31, 1992 and members should be paid by then.

Mr. John Paklaian suggested we increase membership dues from \$50 to \$75. He moved to raise dues effective in 1993 at a \$25/increment. Mr.

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Cholakian seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. Paklaian then amended his motion to state that dues will be increased from \$50 to \$75 with the exception of Senior Citizens effective 1993. Mr. Cholakian seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

DER HAYR'S REPORT

Der Hayr reported to the Parish that he has the same suggestions he had last year.

He asked that more donations be made to the Loosavorich. Donations must also be made for altar flowers. He suggested that a list be made and donations for flowers be taken.

Fr. Haik explained that three hours is too long for a Parish Assembly. Parish Council should send all reports to members one month before the meeting. Members will have time to read all reports before arriving at the meeting.

The Cultural Committee must organize themselves and have activities.

A membership drive should be organized. Our church should have at least 200 members.

ACYDA Srs. and Jrs. should be reinstituted.

The choir should be reorganized and acolytes are needed. Boys between the ages of 7 1/2 and 8 years are eligible. Girls under the age of 12 years can serve under a new directive from the Diocese.

Fr. Haik would like to organize a joint Ecumenical service with all the local churches and their Parishes. He emphasized that we need spiritual activities as well as social activities.

Der Hayr would like to organize Bible Study groups if there is interest.

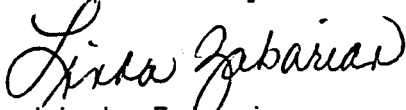
Fr. Haik emphasized that a Der Hayr and a Parish Council cannot do everything alone. They need the help of the congregation.

A final recommendation was to have a tape recorder at the next Parish meeting.

Dr. Hitik informed the Assembly of fourteen families from Baku. Donations are needed for these people. He asked that our Parish help. Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio suggested a committee be formed to help people in these situations. Names of those interested in being part of this committee should be submitted to the Parish Council.

Mr. Paklaian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hitik. The motion carried. Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting adjourned a 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Zakarian  
Parish Assembly Secretary