

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church
Chicago, Illinois

*Minutes of the Parish Assembly
February 23, 1997*

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. Arnold Koresian. Father Haig Donikian led the attendees in prayer.

Roll call was taken by Mr. Charles Babikian. There were 39 paid members present of the total membership of 97 people.

Nominations for Assembly Chairman for the 1997 meeting were opened. Mr. Arnold Koresian was nominated and accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Mr. Koresian became the Assembly Chairman.

Mr. Koresian opened nominations for the Assembly Secretary. Mrs. Linda Zakarian was nominated. There being no further nominations, Mrs. Zakarian became the Assembly Secretary.

The minutes of the 1996 Parish Assembly were read by Mrs. Zakarian. Mrs. Dorothy Koresian moved to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. George Nahabedian. The minutes were accepted.

Report of the Pastor

Fr. Donikian, who is our Interim Parish Priest, gave a detailed, inclusive report of his activities at St. Gregory in 1996. The report was accepted by the Assembly.

Report of the Parish Council

Parish Council Chairman, Mr. George Nahabedian gave a detailed report of the church activities for the year. The report was accepted by the Assembly.

Before the reports of the church organizations were given, Mrs. Dorothy Koresian made a motion to dispense with the reading of the reports. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Goldie George. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Reports of the Church Organizations

Women's Guild - Mrs. Silva Karachorlu read the financial report of the Women's Guild. She presented a check in the amount of \$3,615 to the Parish Council. A copy of the report is attached.

Nairi Choir - Ms. Michelle Babikian read the financial report of the Nairi Choir. A check in the amount of \$817.59 was presented to the Parish Council. A copy of the report is attached.

There were no other Organizational Reports.

Report of the Reserve Fund

In the absence of Mr. Haig Pedian, the report of the Reserve Fund was presented by Mr. Chuck Babikian. The Reserve Fund was \$171,399 as of December 31, 1996, which reflected a gain of \$7,154. Mr. Pedian's report is attached.

Report of the Auditing Committee

The Auditing Committee presented their report to the Assembly. Mr. Nahabedian moved to accept the Auditing Committee's report, the motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the report was filed.

1997 Budget


The financial report was reviewed by the Assembly and the Parish Council addressed questions concerning the 1997 budget. Mr. Koresian thanked Ms. Naomi Nahabedian for her assistance in preparation of the budget. Garry Abezetian moved to accept the 1997 Budget, the motion was seconded, a vote was taken and the budget was approved.

Elections

The Nominating Committee presented candidates for Parish Council, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee. In each case, additional nominations were sought from the floor. Ballots for each election were passed and collected by the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Armen Zakarian was elected to the Auditing Committee. (30)

The following individuals were elected to serve on the Parish Council:

 Garry Abezetian (39)
Greg Tootooian (38)
Michelle Babikian (32)
Harry Paloian (32)

The following individuals were elected to serve as the Nominating Committee for 1997:

Nancy Weiss (31)

Silva Karachorlu (26)
Helen Babikian (22)

Old Business

Mr. Klujian asked about the Magar Nahabedian Memorial Fund. It was explained that there is no such fund but the choirstand was purchased in his memory.

Mrs. Dolores Tootooian asked if pictures of past deacons could be displayed in the small hall. That will be directed to the Parish Council.

Mr. George Nahabedian reviewed the latest details concerning the merger situation between St. Gregory and St. James Churches. After giving background information, he explained that the committees have been meeting and financial reports including assets have been presented for both churches. He explained that the committee is moving towards the idea, but approval must be given by the Diocese. Details were presented. Mr. Nahabedian explained that there must be an executive committee. Mr. Nahabedian explained that this executive committee will be the decision making committee. As of this time no one has volunteered to chair that committee. He proceeded to explain that this report was also presented to the St. James Parish at their Parish Assembly and they voted to continue the merger talks. Much discussion followed. Ms. Babikian made a motion to continue to pursue the investigation into the proposed merger between St. Gregory and St. James Churches. Mr. Steve Tootooian seconded the motion, and discussion pursued. A vote was taken, and 18 voted to continue to pursue and 14 voted not to continue to pursue.

New Business

Mr. Martin Abezetician asked if our Diocesan dues were dependent upon the number of paid members. Mr. Nahabedian explained that they are.

Mrs. Seta Babikian explained that Sunday School needs more teachers in order for the staff to rotate responsibilities. She explained that there is a need for more children to attend. We are dependent upon 2 or 3 families to continue Sunday School.

Mr. George Nahabedian presented the idea of raising church dues in order to support Parish dues to the Diocese. He then read a letter that was sent to Surpazan stating that St. Gregory's will not pay any more dues until they help us locate a parish priest. Mr. Nahabedian made a motion to increase church dues to \$100 per parishioner and \$50 to those 65 years old and older. This would be done in order to offset the dues of the parish. Mrs. Goldie George seconded the motion, a vote was taken and the motion passed.

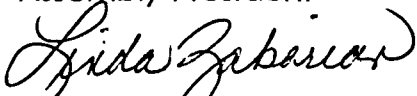
Mr. Nahabedian proceeded to read a letter from the Diocese explaining that Father Garabed would not be available to become our parish priest for another two years. This letter was in response to one written by our Parish Council requesting Fr. Garabed become our priest. Mr. Nahabedian explained that there are only two priests available at this time and both are relatively young. Father Donikian expressed the concern that St. Gregory needs a priest with experience.

Fr. Donikian led the Assembly in a requiem prayer for all members who passed away in 1996.

Mrs. Marge Sarkisian moved to adjourn the meeting. That motion was seconded by Mrs. Goldie George. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Fr. Donikian.



Fr. Haig Donikian
Assembly President



Linda Zakarian
Parish Assembly Secretary



Arnold Koresian
Parish Assembly Chairman