

## PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church  
Chicago, Illinois  
1996

Father Haik Donikian, Members of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago:

1996 was the Year of the Resignation. First, Very Rev. Father Paren Avedikian, then Mrs. Agnes Pedian our very competent chairperson, and lastly, our treasurer/organist, Zaven Dadian. All three resignations had a major affect on our parish. Anytime you lose a priest and two parish council members who have played a key role in the parish, we all feel its affect.

On May 23, I was elected parish council chairman for the third time. The task of running a parish without a priest is a very difficult one. Fortunately, I had the pleasure of working with a competent parish council consisting of:

Mrs. Zabelle Abezetian - Vice Chairperson  
Mr. Charles Babikian - Treasurer  
Mr. Steve Tootooian - Assistant Treasurer  
Mr. Gregory Tootooian - Secretary  
Mr. Harry Paloian  
Mr. Jack Cholakian

I would also like to recognize Ms. Violet Koresian, the Church's secretary. I don't know what we would do without her.

### REGULAR & SPECIAL MEETINGS:

The Parish Council held nine regular meetings after Mrs. Pedian's resignation. They also took part in a number of picnic meetings as well as the Merger Meetings with St. James Armenian Church of Evanston. It is recommended that the Parish Council meet with the various executive bodies of the church auxiliaries to discuss some of the problems that may arise. The cooperation with the Woman's Guild is excellent.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND PLEDGE SYSTEM

The pledge system that was passed by the parish assembly two years ago has never been put in place. The \$18,000.00 has been removed from the 1997 budget.

The envelope system has not been fully accepted by the parish. This system of voluntary giving should be the major source of income and it is not. Every member should be an active participant in this endeavor.

Our church membership dues is a major problem to the parish. Our yearly assessment for dues paying member to the Diocese is \$4,937.30 or an average of \$48.88 per person based on 101 members. We have approximately 50 members over 65 years of age who pay a senior citizen rate of \$25.00 or a loss of \$23.00 per senior citizen. Therefore, I am recommending an increase of \$25.00 per person. The membership dues will be as follows:

Senior citizens	-	\$50.00 per person
Ages 18-64	-	\$100.00 per person

### CHURCH PICNIC

The Annual Church Picnic took place on July 27th and 28th. The parish council is grateful to Linda and Armen Zakarian for chairing the picnic. We would also like to thank everyone who volunteered their services in making this such a success. The picnic is the church's major fund raiser, netting \$22,976.67.

### CULTURAL HALL

The rental of the church hall has been a major success thanks to Ms. Violet Koresian. The hall was rented 12 times for approximately \$12,000.00.

### OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1996

The parish council is quite pleased with the following:

- Under the guidance of the Very Rev. Father Paren Avedikian our parish coordinated the Liturgical Service and the visit of Karekin the 1st, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians to Chicago.
- Diocesan dues have been paid in full.
- The Fidelity Account balance of \$47,221.887.
- The closing balance in the checking account is \$11,801.92.
- The Reserve Fund balance of \$171,399.00.
- The Parish hosted the following Diocesan activities:
  - 1) Leadership Conference November 103
  - 2) Young Professional Seminar December 6
  - 3) Diocesan Council Regional Meeting December 7
- Merger talks with St. James Armenian Church
- Active participation in Midwest Regional Council and Hye Camp.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Parish Council Recommends:


1. Pursue a Parish Priest.
2. Establish a Stewardship Program Including Members.
3. Pursue an Organist and Choir Director.
4. Increase the Choir Membership.
5. An active Sunday School.
6. A Men' Club and/or Couples Club.
7. Increase Church Attendance and Membership.

APPRECIATION:

The Parish Council wishes to extend its heartfelt thanks to Rev. Father Haik Donikian; the Deacons--Charles Babikian and John Paklaian, the Choir members, Mrs. Marge Sarkesian and the Women's Guild, the Sunday School teachers Kenarr Chiodo and Seta Babikian, the Auditing Committee, the Nominating Committee, Mr. Haig Pedian, the Loosavorich Staff, the volunteers and the faithful parishioners for their service to the church.

I would again like to thank the Parish Council, Ms. Violet Koresian and all others who have contributed to the parish in 1996.

Sincerely,



George Nahabedian  
Parish Council Chairman

GN/pn