

MINUTES OF ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH  
PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 1998

Meeting called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Arnold Koresian. Deacon Aren opened with a prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roll call was taken by Charles Babikian. There were 34 paid members present of the total membership of 97.

Nominations for Assembly Chairman of the 1998 meeting were opened. Arnold Koresian and Matthew Klujian, Jr. were nominated. Vote was taken and Arnold Koresian was nominated. Matthew Klujian, Jr. became Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Koresian opened nominations for the Assembly Secretary. Linda Zakarian and Nancy Weiss were nominated, but both declined. Rose Tootooian and Martin Abezetian were nominated. Election by show of hands. Rose Tootooian was elected.

Minutes of the 1997 Parish Assembly were not read, as all members received a copy previous to meeting. Correction was made by Marge Sarkesian that the Financial Report of the Womens Guild was presented and not read by Silva Karachorlu. Dr. Hrach Hitik made motion to accept minutes as corrected. Seconded by Garrick Abezetian. Arnold Koresian thanked Linda Zakarian for doing such a fine job as the Recording Secretary of the 1997 Assembly.

REPORT OF THE PASTOR:

Deacon Aren stated that since he was not here last year and Fr. Haik Donikian was only a visiting priest, it was difficult to prepare a report. Violet Koresian, Church Secretary prepared a report from records she had kept and copies will be distributed to the members.

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

Parish Council Chairperson, Michelle Babikian, who only became Chairman on June 12, 1997 gave a detailed report of the Parish Council activities for the year. She pointed out that the responsibility to run a parish without the leadership and guidance of a full-time priest was difficult for her and the Parish Council members. She then thanked her Parish Council members for their support and hard work this past year. The report was accepted by the Assembly. Copy of report is attached.

RESERVE FUND REPORT:

Haig Pedian, Chairman of the Fund reported the balance of the Reserve Fund to date is \$175,006.00. Haig Pedian, at the present time, is the sole member of the Fund. Armen Zakarian stated that a motion was made and passed at the Parish Assembly Meeting in February, 1995 that the Reserve Fund be put in the hands of the Parish Council, along with Haig Pedian. This evidently was not done. George Nahabedian made a motion the Parish Assembly elect a Reserve Fund Committee of 3, consisting of Haig Pedian, the Treasurer of the Parish Council and a member of the Parish Assembly. The term of the committee should be 1 year, or until such time when by-laws are presented to a Parish Assembly. Their responsibility is to administer the monies of the Reserve Fund. Deacon Aren suggested since it would take too long to do this today, it should be done at a separate meeting. Motion was passed by show of hands. 17 to 14.

REPORTS OF THE CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS:

Reports were not read. Copies were presented to the Chair.

Women's Guild--presented check for \$3,068.00.

Nairi Choir--presented check for \$1,467.42.

Sunday School--report was not available.

Ladies Auxiliary--report was read by Assembly Chairman, Arnold Koresian, explaining because of poor health, lack of members and the sad death of 3 members, activities were badly curtailed this past year. Balance in savings account is \$101.67, which 60% will be turned over to Parish Council.

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Garrick Abezetician, Church Treasurer, distributed copies of the Financial Report to all present and gave a detailed explanation of the income and expenses for 1997. Haig Pedian made motion to accept Auditing Committee Report. Seconded by George Nahabedian.

ELECTIONS:

The Nominating Committee presented candidates for the Parish Council. 3 replacements needed. Zabelle Abezetician, Charles Babikian and Steve Too-tooian were completing their 2 year term. Deacon Aren stated, according to the by-laws, the term for serving on the Parish Council is 3-2 year terms served consecutively. Additional nominations were sought from the floor. Ballots were passed and collected by the Nominating Committee. The results for the newly elected members of the Parish Council for the next 2 years are as follows:

Charles Babikian	(31)	Jack Cholakian	(6)
Zabelle Abezetician	(28)	Garro Dadian	(5)
John Paklaian	(25)	Mae Nahabedian	(3)

Jack Cholakian would be next in line, if for any reason, a Parish Council member would have to be replaced.

DIOCESAN DELEGATE:

Nominations were sought from the floor. Since, there were no further nominations, current delegates were the only candidates. Ballot vote was taken. Results were;

George Nahabedian	(20)	Delegate
Haig Pedian	(12)	Alternate

Question was asked by Alice George as to how many members required to send 2 delegates to Diocesan Assembly. George Nahabedian stated we need at least 125 members. Also, Agnes Pedian inquired how many terms can one serve as Delegate. Deacon Aren responded that one can serve indefinitely, but elections are to be held every 4 years.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Nominations were sought from the floor. 3 individuals needed to serve on committee. Elected was Linda Zakarian, Mae Nahabedian and Shirley Paloian.

Results were:

Linda Zakarian	(30)	Alice George	(10)
Mae Nahabedian	(26)	Rose Tootooian	(9)
Shirley Paloian	(16)	Steve Tootooian	(7)

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

One member needed to replace Martin Abezetian, since his 3 year term was completed. Nominations were sought from the floor. Arnold Koresian and Armen Zakarian remain on committee. Nominated was Martin Abezetian and Matthew Klujian, Jr.

Results were:

Matthew Klujian, Jr.	(18)
Martin Abezetian	(14)

Arnold Koresian informed the Assembly that Deacon Aren (or any Pastor of our church) is the President of all organizations. He then stated the terms of the various organizations. They are as follows:

Parish Council	(2 years)
Diocesan Delegate	(4 years)
Auditing	(3 years)
Nominating	(1 year)

RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE:

Nominations were sought from the floor for 1 individual to serve along with Haig Pedian, Chairman of Fund and Garrick Abezetian, Church Treasurer. Dr. Hrach Hitik and George Nahabedian were nominated.

Results were:

Dr. Hrach Hitik	(16)
George Nahabedian	(13)
No Vote	(3)

OLD BUSINESS:

MERGER UP-DATE: Michelle Babikian, Parish Council Chairperson, informed the Assembly a letter was received last year from St. James Armenian Church, inquiring if we were still interested in pursuing the merger, and if so, a reply was requested by August 5, 1997. Michelle stated there was no response from us for various reasons. There appeared to be a lack of interest and meetings were not being held by the Merger Committee. George Nahabedian made us aware one of the major concerns facing the committee was the difficulty to obtain a chairman of such an enormous undertaking, so consequently, it lacked leadership. Charles Babikian stated that the Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, also advised us to put the merger on hold for the time being. Matthew Klujian, Sr. expressed his concern we should not wait too long. Deacon Aren suggested the matter should be put back into the hands of the Parish Council, and they should contact St. James Church. If we get a positive response, then a new committee should be formed to pursue the merger. There were no further discussion regarding this situation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rose Tootooian suggested rather than having Parish Assembly Meetings once a year, we should hold Mid-Year Meetings. This way, parishioners would

be better informed of the problems of the church, make suggestions, and if new matters come up, we can address those needs, rather than wait a full year. Haig Pedian made the motion to hold Mid-Year Parish Assembly Meetings. Seconded by Dr. Hrach Hitik. Motion passed by show of hands. (15 to 10).

Michelle Babikian made the announcement Dorothy Koresian and Pauline Nahabedian would chair the Annual Armenian Fest to be held August 8th and 9th of this year. The Fest would be co-chaired by their sons, Craig Koresian and Michael Nahabedian.

DIRATZOO'S PLAN:

Deacon Aren presented a report entitled "Diratzoo's Plan". Deacon Aren proposes to appoint a 12-member committee, along with the Parish Council, to assess the needs of the church and community. Copies of "Diratzoo's Plan" was distributed to all present. Copy of report attached.

Deacon Aren then thanked the Parish Council for their help in his transition to our church. Special thanks was given to Violet Koresian, Church Secretary, Michelle Babikian, Parish Council Chairman, Haig Pedian, Godfather of St. Gregory's and George Michael, Realtor.

George Nahabedian complimented Deacon Aren and gave a summation of the activities and services he has performed since he became Deacon-in-Charge for the short period of time (January 4, 1998) he has been with us.

Before closing the meeting, Deacon Aren thanked Arnold Koresian, Assembly Chairman, Rose Tootooian, Assembly Secretary, Steve Tootooian, who was leaving the Parish Council, congratulated and welcomed John Paklaian, as the newly elected member to the Parish Council.

Deacon Aren led the Assembly in a Requiem Prayer for all the parishioners who passed away in 1997.

Dr. Hrach Hitik moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by George Nahabedian. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M. with the closing prayer of the Hayr Mer led by Deacon Aren.



Rev. Dr. Aren Jebekian  
Assembly President



Arnold Koresian  
Parish Assembly Chairman



Rose Tootooian  
Parish Assembly Secretary