

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH
PARISH ASSEMBLY - FEBRUARY 13, 1977

The meeting was called to order by George Nahabedian, chairman of last year's Parish Assembly, at 2:05 p.m. Hayr Varoujan Kabaradjian led the Assembly in prayer. Mathew Klujian, Jr., treasurer of the Parish Council, conducted the verification of voters. Of 83 paid members, 30 were present at this point in the meeting. Mr. G. Nahabedian declared there to be a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

The floor nominated and seconded George Nahabedian to act as assembly chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY SECRETARY

The floor nominated and seconded Georgette Mrofcza to act as assembly secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Arnold Koresian read the minutes from the February 8, 1976 Parish Assembly. The following corrections were noted.

1. The Jr. A.C.Y.O.A. donated \$200 for FY 75--not \$300.
2. The nominating committee serves a 1-year term--not a 2-year term.

Pauline Nahabedian moved that the minutes be accepted with the above mentioned corrections. Alice George seconded the motion and the motion carried.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Nishan Babikian, chairman of the Parish Council, delivered the council's yearly report, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Mr. G. Nahabedian expressed the Parish's gratitude to Mr. Babikian for a job well done.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES REPORT

George Nahabedian reported that he and Mark Nahabedian attended 2 Diocesan meetings; one on April 30, 1976 and the other on May 1, 1976. Mr. G. Nahabedian said that as this was his 4th year as a delegate, he was determined to stake our claim for identity. He explained that it is to a parish's best interest to have as many delegates representing them as possible because they have a stronger voice at the assemblies and therefore more power. In order to make our parish's concern more known, Mr. G. Nahabedian served on the Proposals Committee. In addition, he has been notified of his candidacy for the Diocesan Board. There were 2 Regional Diocesan Assembly meetings held in our area to unite the Mid-West's interests and organize for future Diocesan Assemblies. It was questioned from the floor what actually happens at the Diocesan Assembly. Mr. G. Nahabedian said he planned at this parish assembly to explain the following and did continue.

1. How does the Diocese assess a parish in order to tax them? The Diocese assess each parish by taking into consideration the following:

Membership - For each paid member, the parish is taxed \$17.

Clergy - For each clergy, the parish is taxed a certain percentage.

Gross Plate Collections - The parish is taxed a certain percentage.

Delegates - The parish is taxed a certain percentage based on the number of delegates it has. A parish is allowed 1 delegate per 100 members.

Sacraments - The parish is taxed a certain percentage of all Sacraments performed.

Our parish's assessment is \$1,545.

2. How is a clergy's salary determined? Mr. G. Nahabedian outlined the following.

Basic Salary	8,330.00
A 3 yr. increment up to 7 years (for experience)	595.00
Parish Size (for each 100 members)	595.00

In addition, the parish is responsible for all costs pertaining to a home. In the case of rental, all costs plus utilities are the responsibilities of the parish. The parish is also responsible for all insurances.

Considering the variables, it was estimated that in order to secure a clergy we would need at least \$15,000. Mr. G. Nahabedian assured the members assembled that there have been numerous attempts made to secure a clergy for our parish. Priests have been sought out and offered our parish but so far all attempts have proven futile.

3. Proposal - As a member of the Proposals Committee, Mr. G. Nahabedian has written a proposal whereby after 5 years of service, a clergyman could be reassigned by the decision of the Primate. This would allow a clergyman the opportunity to accept a call from another parish. As the by-laws are now written, a parish priest is elected for 5 years, after which he is either re-elected, resigns or removed. Lee Matiosian moved that Mr. G. Nahabedian introduce this motion at the next Diocesan Assembly. Mrs. Alice George seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Ladies Auxillary - Mrs. Dikranouhi Doumanian delivered the Ladies Auxillary Report and donated to the parish council a check in the amount of \$2,299.

Young Women's Guild - Helen Nahabedian submitted the Young Women's Guild Report and a check in the amount of \$1,835.53. An additional \$2,000 from the YWG's Reserve Fund (Known as the "Sunshine Fund") will be forthcoming. Lee Matiosian

questioned as to the necessity of the Parish Council to tax an organization's reserve fund. Mr. G. Nahabedian explained that it was required to tax all of an organization's funds so that this money in turn could be put into the parish's Reserve Fund and invested for the parish.

A.C.Y.O.A. SRs. No report was submitted at this meeting.

A.C.Y.O.A. JRs. Approximately \$237.40 will be turned over to the Parish Council.

RESERVE FUND

Mr. Haig Pedian telephoned Dr. Karachorlu to inform him that the current balance is \$28,283.91. Many members expressed concern over the amount of interest earned the past year and wondered why it decreased from the year before. Dr. Karachorlu was asked what the Reserve Fund does. He explained that the Reserve Fund never meets as a group. Miss Violet Koresian moved to have the Parish Council formally contact Mr. Haig Pedian, chairman of the Reserve Fund Committee and obtain from him a written report on the activities of the fund and also to look into the other means of investment. Alice George seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

Copies of the Auditing Committee Report were distributed. Mrs. Mary Somnese reported that as an elected member of the Auditing Committee she had never been called upon to audit any of the parish council books and therefore felt that her name should be removed from the Financial Report because she could not attest to its authenticity first-hand. Miss Violet Koresian moved that Mrs. Somnese's name be removed from the Financial Report. Georgette Mrofcza seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Chair directed the Auditing Committee to re-evaluate their report to be submitted at the next meeting because the Financial Report as submitted was not valid due to the fact that all members of the Auditing Committee had not been given the opportunity to audit the books.

Lee Matiosian moved that the Parish Council send reminders to the Auditing and Nominating Committees to notify them of the up-coming assemblies so that they would have time to perform their elected duties. Violet Koresian seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. G. Nahabedian said that we would have to forego the proposed budget in light of the fact that last year's financial report was not acceptable.

Therefore, the following unofficial accounting was given as to the church's financial status.

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Parish Assembly
February 13, 1977

Savings Account	8,575.00
Interest on Savings Account	404.38
Reserve Fund	28,283.91
Checking (as of 2/12/77)	<u>6,300.00</u>
Present church value	43,561.29

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT


The Nominating Committee reported that they were unable to perform their duties of submitting a slate for the Parish Council Elections due to the fact that so many parishoners were not interested in running for office. Lee Matiosian moved that the nominating committee be given until March 13, 1977 to slate eligible members for the Parish Council elections and to prepare an acceptable slate for next year's Nominating and Auditing Committees. Georgette Mrofcza seconded the motion and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Lee Matiosian asked about the roof and what is being done to tend to the repairs. The Parish Council spent \$5000 five years ago in the hopes to rectify the leaks. The present Parish Council spent \$350 to retar a certain section of the roof. Mathew Klujian said that it would be a major job to repair the roof properly probably costing thousands of dollars. It was suggested that perhaps a building committee might be able to look into the possibility of a construction of a parsonage above the hall which would provide a solution to the leaky roof. The incoming Parish Council would have to look into this matter further.

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


(Mrs.) Georgette L. Mrofcza
Parish Assembly Secretary