

# Սուրբ Գրիգոր Լուսավորիչ Եկեղեցի Հայաստանեայց

## ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

6700 WEST DIVERSEY AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60635 TEL: (312) 637-1711

### 1983 PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Mr. Mathew Klujian, Jr., Parish Council Chairman, on Sunday, January 15, 1984. Fr. Vahram Hazarian led the assembly in prayer.

Mr. John Mrofcza, Parish Council Treasurer conducted the verification of paid, eligible voters. There were 113 paid members for the year 1983. There were 53 members present. Mr. Mrofcza declared there to be a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

As Mr. Klujian was proceeding with the elections of assembly chairman and secretary, a point of order was raised by Mr. George Nahabedian that, by right, last year's assembly chairman and secretary were to officiate over the parish assembly until a new chairman and secretary had been elected. Mr. Klujian then turned the meeting over to Mr. Arnold Koresian, Chairman of the 1982 Parish Assembly and Ms. Michelle Babikian was asked to take minutes.

Mr. Arnold Koresian then opened the floor for nominations for Parish Assembly Chairman. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Mr. Kaz Kazarian. Mr. Walter Baronian seconded the nomination. Mr. John Mrofcza nominated Ms. Violet Koresian. Mrs. Alice George seconded the nomination. A motion was made from the floor to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Koresian conducted the voting by a show of hands resulting in 35 votes for Mr. Kaz Kazarian, 8 votes for Ms. Violet Koresian, and 9 abstentions. Mr. Koresian turned the floor over to Mr. Kaz Kazarian, 1983 Parish Assembly Chairman.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian opened the floor for nominations for Parish Assembly Secretary. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza. Mr. Matt Klujian, Jr. seconded the motion. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza nominated Mr. Sam Sommese. Mrs. Mary Sommese seconded the motion. Mrs. Alice George moved the nominations be closed and Mr. Charles Babikian seconded the motion. Mr. Kazarian conducted the voting by a show of hands resulting in 37 votes for Mrs. Mrofcza, 8 votes for Mr. Sam Sommese and 9 abstentions. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza was asked to continue taking minutes.

Mr. John Mrofcza moved to recess until 2:30 p.m. for the purpose of lunch. Mr. Sam Sommese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian reconvened the meeting at 2:35 p.m. Copies of the 1982 Parish Assembly Meeting Minutes were distributed. Ms. Michelle Babikian was called to read the minutes from the 1982 Assembly. Dr. Hrach Hitik moved to accept the minutes as read. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu seconded the motion and the motion carried. Mr. Kazarian asked for recognition from the assembly for Ms. Babikian's accurate minute-taking and it was so done.

Mr. Kazarian then informed the Assembly that the luncheon was provided by the Nairi Choir and that we should feel free to offer our thanks to them.

The next order of business was the reading of the Parish Council Report. Mr. Kazarian called Mr. Matt Klujian, Jr. to give his report. Mr. Matt Klujian, Jr. gave his report. (Copy attached) Mr. Klujian gave special thanks to the following:

- To Mr. Nishan Babikian, whose dedication to the Parish goes far beyond the call of duty;
- To those parishoners who gave donations so that Der Vahram could purchase a car;
- To Mrs. Linda Zakarian and Mrs. SuSu Klujian for their efforts with our Sunday School;
- To Dr. Hampar Yazijian and the Nairi Choir for bringing special meaning to the services;
- To Mrs. Ann Arevian and the Ladies Auxilliary for never saying "no";
- To Mr. Walter Baronian and his sister Ms. Libby Baronian for computerizing the mailing list;
- To Mr. Garabed Paloian for helping with the church's plumbing problems;
- To Mr. Garo Dadian for having the insight to suggest calling the Gas Company and saving us a lot of money in service charges;
- To Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio and the Women's Guild for always supporting all the various organizations of the Parish; and
- To Mr. Garo Evran for his skillful glass work for the church.

Mr. Kazarian then called for the organizations' reports.

Mrs. Siranoush Minasian, Secretary of the Ladies Auxilliary gave their report. (Copy attached) The Ladies also gave a gift of \$945.00 to the Sunday School to offer their support for the efforts of Sunday School.

The Women's Guild Report was given by Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio, Chairlady for 1983. (Copy attached)

The A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. Report was prepared by Ms. Keri Koresian, Chairperson for 1983 and was given by Ms. Violet Koresian. (Copy attached)

Ms. Cynthia Paklaian spoke on behalf of Mr. Alan Dadian, 1983 Chairman for the A.C.Y.O.A. Srs., who was not present. Ms. Paklaian reported that a report from the Srs. would be submitted within the week.

Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza, 1983 Chairperson for the Nairi Choir, gave and submitted the Choir's Report. (Copy attached)

The Sunday School Report for 1983 was given by Mrs. Linda Zakarian, Superintendent. (Copy attached)

Fr. Vahram Hazarian, Acting Parish Priest, gave his report, detailing the number of Sacraments administered as well as an accounting of number of Badaraks performed, hospital visitations and other related duties. (Copy attached)

The next order of business on the agenda was the Treasurer's Report. Copies of the 1983 Financial Statement were distributed to the Assembly. Mr. Kazarian called on Mr. John Mrofcza, Treasurer, to give his report. Mr. Mrofcza went through the various parts of his report, pointing out a couple of areas where further break-down and explanation was given for everyone's better understanding. Mr. George Nahabedian and Mr. Arnold Koresian served on the Auditing Committee and attested that all was in order with the Parish's books. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented (copy attached) and thanked Mr. Mrofcza for an excellent job of bookkeeping. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian then called for the report of the Reserve Fund Committee, served by Mr. Haig Pedian, and Drs. Hrach Hitik and Vahe Karachorlu. Dr. Hitik reported that Mr. Pedian sent a letter to Mr. John Mrofcza, Treasurer, indicating the activities of the Reserve Fund, (copy attached). There is \$69,560.60 in Certificates of Deposit. Mr. Mrofcza asked the date of maturity of the C.D.s. Dr. Hitik replied, "April, 1984". Mr. Mrofcza suggested that for a clearer understanding of the report, interest should be reported in the calendar year in which it is earned. Mr. George Nahabedian commented that it would appear that 2 members of the Reserve Fund Committee did not seem to have complete knowledge of the activities of the Reserve Fund Committee. Dr. Hitik clarified that he did in fact have involvement with the affairs of the committee, but admitted, however, that there should be a greater attempt made to achieve a more collaborative working of the committee. Mr. George Nahabedian moved to accept the Reserve Fund Committee's Report. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Jack Hagopian said he understood that every member of the Reserve Fund Committee is to have complete knowledge of every money transaction and act as a whole body on behalf of the Parish. Mr. George Nahabedian amended his motion to indicate that we accept the Reserve Fund Committee's Report noting that not all members may have had complete knowledge of all activities. The motion carried.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT - Mr. Arnold Koresian and Mr. George Nahabedian completed the audit of the Parish Council's books. (Mr. Peter Bedrosian, the

third member of the Committee was unavailable to assist in the audit.) The committee reported that the books were found in order and that the audit was very easy to complete because John Mrofcza had been so thorough in his accounting. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza asked if the organizations had submitted their books for auditing. Mr. Nahabedian said the Committee only received books from the Parish Council. He further commented that it is rather difficult to expect the Auditing Committee to audit all the organizational books when, with the exception of the A.C.Y.O.A. Srs. & Jrs., their accounting year ends December 31. Since we are to meet sometime in January, it does not allow enough time to complete such a large undertaking. Mr. Garo Sazian suggested that the Auditing Committee call for the books on a quarterly basis for audit and in this way there would not be as much to do at the end of the year. Mr. Nishan Babikian moved to accept the Auditing Committee's Report. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion. Mr. Mrofcza asked that the maker of the motion amend it to clearly reflect that the Auditing Committee only audited the Parish Council's books and found them to be in order. Mr. Nishan Babikian so amended his motion. The motion carried.

1984 BUDGET - The next item on the agenda was the 1984 Budget. Mr. John Mrofcza reported that a proposed budget for '84 was included in his Treasurer's Report. Concern was raised that possible NEW BUSINESS might have an effect on the budget. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza therefore moved to table the Budget until New Business. Mr. Garo Dadian seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian then called for the Nominating Committee. The members of the Committee were: Mrs. Helen Babikian, Mrs. Silva Karachorlu, Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio. They presented the following slate for election of Parish Council members, indicating there were 4 positions to be filled.

PARISH COUNCIL SLATE OF NOMINEES

- 1.) Mathew Klujian, Jr.
- 2.) Nishan Babikian
- 3.) Garo Sazian
- 4.) Arsen Jerian
- 5.) Garo Dadian
- 6.) Jack Cholakian
- 7.) George Nahabedian
- 8.) Arnold Koresian
- 9.) Dr. Vahe Karachorlu

Mr. Kazarian called for a 5-minute recess at 4:20 p.m. while the Nominating Committee made preparations for the voting.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian reconvened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Jerian's name was removed from the ballot as he had not paid his '83 dues as of yet. Mr. Garo Sazian declined and his name was removed from the ballot. The floor was opened for nominations for Parish Council. Mrs. Alice George nominated Mr. Jack Hagopian. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the nomination. Dr. Hrach Hitik nominated Ms. Violet Koresian. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Dr. Hrach Hitik nominated Mr. Hagop Dirilen, who declined the nomination. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Dr. Hrach Hitik. Mr. Sam Sommese seconded the nomination. Dr. Hitik declined the nomination. Mrs. Linda Zakarian nominated Ms. Cynthia Paklaian. Mr. John Mrofcza seconded the motion. Mr. Sarkis Gircik was nominated from the floor, but declined the nomination. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza moved to close the nominations. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion. The motion carried.

While ballots were being distributed, Mrs. Helen Babikian presented the slate for the 1984 Nominating Committee. Four positions needed to be filled.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF NOMINEES

- 1.) Helen Babikian
- 2.) Sadie Marcantonio
- 3.) Pauline Nahabedian
- 4.) Silva Karachorlu

The floor was opened for nominations. Dr. Hrach Hitik nominated Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza. Mrs. SuSu Klujian seconded the motion. Mr. Garo Dadian nominated Mrs. SuSu Klujian. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Linda Zakarian was nominated from the floor but declined the nomination. Ms. Tilda Gircik was nominated from the floor, but declined. Ms. Cynthia Paklaian nominated Ms. Michelle Babikian. Mr. John Mrofcza seconded the nomination. Mr. Kegham Parseghian nominated Mrs. Ani Dirilen. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mrs. SuSu Klujian nominated Mr. Hagop Dirilen. Ms. Cynthia Paklaian seconded the nomination. Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza moved to close the nominations. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion and the motion carried.

While the ballots for the Nominating Committee were being distributed, the results of the Parish Council Elections were announced.

#### PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

- |                         |           |                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1.) Mathew Klujian, Jr. | 11 votes  | 7.) George Nahabedian   | 24 votes* |
| 2.) Nishan Babikian     | 35 votes* | 8.) Arnold Koresian     | 35 votes* |
| 3.) Garo Sazian         | 0 votes   | 9.) Dr. Vahe Karachorlu | 37 votes* |
| 4.) Arsen Jerian        | 0 votes   | 10.) Jack Hagopian      | 14 votes  |
| 5.) Garo Dadian         | 10 votes  | 11.) Violet Koresian    | 7 votes   |
| 6.) Jack Cholakian      | 3 votes   | 12.) Cynthia Paklaian   | 8 votes   |

The Nominating Committee then presented the slate for the Auditing Committee, indicating there were 3 positions to be filled.

AUDITING COMMITTEE SLATE OF NOMINEES

- 1.) Mary Sommese
- 2.) Violet Koresian

The floor was opened for Nominations for Auditing Committee. Mr. Garo Dadian nominated Mrs. Alice George. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the nomination. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Mr. Jack Cholakian. Mr. Matt Klujian, Jr. seconded the nomination. Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian nominated Mr. Garo Dadian. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu seconded the nomination. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Mr. Sam Sommese. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the nomination. Mr. Nishan Babikian moved to close the nominations. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu seconded the motion and the motion carried.

While the ballots for voting for the Auditing Committee were being distributed, the results of the Nominating Committee voting were announced.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

- |                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1.) Helen Babikian     | 25 votes* |
| 2.) Sadie Marcantonio  | 6 votes   |
| 3.) Pauline Nahabedian | 16 votes* |
| 4.) Silva Karachorlu   | 27 votes* |
| 5.) Georgette Mrofcza  | 13 votes  |
| 6.) SuSu Klujian       | 12 votes  |
| 7.) Michelle Babikian  | 17 votes* |
| 8.) Hagop Dirilen      | 12 votes  |
| 9.) Ani Dirilen        | 7 votes   |

While the votes were being tabulated for the Auditing Committee, Mr. Kazarian called the next item on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Kazarian called to delete items b. and c. from the agenda under OLD BUSINESS as the Parish Council already has authority to establish those committees and does not need the approval of the Parish Assembly.

Mr. Kaz Kazarian then proceeded to call Item a. under Old Business, Mr. Walter Baronian moved to elect Fr. Vahram Hazarian as the Parish Priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, Chicago, IL under Articles 39, 40 and 41 of the Diocesan By-Laws. Mr. Jack Hagopian seconded the motion. It was explained that the By-Laws state the term shall be for "five (5) years and may be re-elected. The Nominating Committee distributed ballots for the voting on the aforementioned motion and explained that a YES vote was in favor of Mr. Baronian's motion and a NO vote was against Mr. Baronian's motion.

While the voting was being tabulated, results of the Auditing Committee elections were announced. The result of the voting was as follows:

#### AUDITING COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

- |                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 1.) Mary Sommese    | 23 votes* |
| 2.) Violet Koresian | 23 votes* |
| 3.) Alice George    | 36 votes* |
| 4.) Jack Cholakian  | 15 votes  |
| 5.) Garo Dadian     | 26 votes* |
| 6.) Sam Sommese     | 8 votes   |

Although there were to be three (3) positions filled, and because there was a tie for the third position, and because the By-Laws state there shall be at least 3 members to the Auditing Committee, Mr. George Nahabedian moved to increase the members of the Auditing Committee from three (3) to four (4) members. Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Auditing Committee for 1984 shall be Mrs. Alice George, Mr. Garo Dadian, Ms. Violet Koresian and Mrs. Mary Sommese.

Mr. Kazarian asked if there was any other OLD BUSINESS. As there was not, he proceeded onto NEW BUSINESS.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hrach Hitik stated that there is a tremendous need for several committees to be working under the Parish Council; namely a Membership Committee, a Cultural Committee, and a Publicity Committee. After giving a little background on how necessary these committees are and how invaluable they have proven in churches overseas, Dr. Hrach Hitik so moved that the Parish Council formulate and oversee the activities of 3 committees; a Membership Committee, a Cultural Committee, and a Publicity Committee. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### PARISH ASSEMBLIES

Mr. Garo Sazian asked if more Parish Assemblies could be held during the year. Clarification was offered from the floor that the Parish is bound by the Diocesan By-Laws to conduct 1 annual meeting in either January or February the purposes of which are to accept a budget and conduct election of members to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. Mr. Matt Klujian, Jr. commented that a preliminary meeting had been scheduled December 18, 1983 but that almost no one showed because of bad weather. Mr. Kazarian then said that the Parish Council had the right to call Parish Assemblies throughout the year when necessary. (By-Law #13)

### PARISH COUNCIL - NUMBER OF MEMBERS

Mrs. Alice George moved to increase the number of Parish Council members to nine (9) from seven (7). Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Mr. George Nahabedian made a point of order that a term of office is for two years and by adding 2 more members it would off balance the number of positions to be filled next year. Therefore, it was suggested that the maker of the motion amend the motion to say that the 2 newly added members serve a one-year term of office. Mrs. Nahabedian so amended her motion. The motion was called to a vote and passed unanimously. The two new members of the Parish Council serving a one-year term are Mr. Jack Hagopian and Mr. Mathew Klujian, Jr. (See page five (5) for election results). Mr. Hagopian thanked the assembly for allowing him the opportunity to serve and pledged himself to working for the best interests of the church and in a team-member fashion.

### PARISH PRIEST

The results of the voting on Mr. Baronian's motion to elect Fr. Vahram Hazarian Parish Priest were delivered to Mr. Kazarian by the Nominating Committee. Mr. Kazarian announced that by a decision of 42 Yes votes and 0 No votes, the Parish Assembly had unanimously voted to elect Fr. Vahram Hazarian as the Parish Priest of St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church of Chicago, IL. (NOTE: A copy of these minutes along with a letter of acceptance from Fr. Hazarian will be submitted to the Archbishop of the North America Eastern Diocese.)

### RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE

Mr. George Nahabedian moved to elect Jack Cholakian to serve on the Reserve Fund Committee because of his expertise in the area of investments. Mr. Garo Dadian seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza suggested that something come from this assembly asking for more accountability from the Reserve Fund Committee. Mr. Kazarian clarified that it was the responsibility

of the Auditing Committee to examine the accounts of not only the Parish Council but all parish standing committees (By-Law 36) at least annually and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Parish Assembly. Members of the Auditing Committee for 1984 were so directed of their duties by the Chair. Mr. Kazarian then called Mr. Nahabedian's motion to a vote and the motion carried. Mr. Jack Cholakian will now join Dr. Hrach Hitik, Dr. Vahe Karachorlu and Mr. Haig Pedian on the Reserve Fund Committee.

#### 1984 - BUDGET

Mr. John Mrofcza presented the budget for 1984. Mr. Walter Baronian moved to accept the 1984 Budget as presented. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### DUES

Mr. John Mrofcza suggested that perhaps we were remiss in our decision last year to increase the membership dues from \$25 to \$50 for those members over 21 years of age and under 65 years of age by not making special provisions for those individuals who are disabled or on permanent disability as we had done so for individuals 18-21 years of age and 65 and older who would continue to pay \$25. After a very brief discussion, Mr. John Mrofcza so moved that individuals who are disabled or on permanent disability income would be required to pay \$25 annual membership dues. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kazarian then called for any further NEW BUSINESS and as there was none, he turned the floor over to Fr. Hazarian who wished to say a few words. Fr. Vahram thanked the Parish Assembly for electing him as their Parish Priest. He pledged himself to service to the church and the community. But as in any organization, he mentioned the leader is ineffective without the support of its members. He urged everyone present to work with him and to strive to make our Parish a strong one. He asked for our indulgence and patience with regard to his lack of command of the English language. He admitted that his learning of English is a vital concern not only as a Parish Priest but as a citizen in the community. He promised to make every effort to become more proficient in English, while in the meantime, continuing to provide translations of his sermons and communiques. He asked that we be honest with him and share with him our opinions so that we could achieve a compatible working relationship.

Mr. Garo Sazian moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Fr. Vahram Hazarian led in closing prayers. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mrs. Georgette L. Mrofcza*

Mrs. Georgette L. Mrofcza  
Secretary

Attachments

and

*Kaz. Kazarian*

Mr. Kaz Kazarian  
Chairman

*Feb. 19, 84*  
Date