

1982 PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Hrach Hitik, Parish Council Chairman, on Sunday, January 30, 1983. Mr. Kegham Parseghian led the assembly in prayer. Dr. Hitik gave a brief statement regarding the morning's confusion over not having Badarak.

Mr. Garo Sazian then conducted the verification of paid, eligible voters. Out of 118 paid members, there were 52 paid members present. Mr. Sazian declared there to be a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

Mr. George Nahabedian, chairman of last year's meeting volunteered to conduct the election of Parish Assembly Chairman and Secretary. Mr. Nahabedian opened the floor for nominations for the Chairman. Mr. Nishan Babikian nominated Mr. Arnold Koresian, seconded by Mr. Haig Pedian. Mr. Jack Cholakian nominated Mr. George Nahabedian, seconded by Mr. Arnold Koresian. Mrs. Susu Klujian nominated Mr. Haig Pedian who declined. Mr. John Mrofcza moved to close the nominations. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu seconded the motion. Mr. Nahabedian took a show of hands. Mr. Arnold Koresian was elected the Chairman. Mr. Koresian opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. After much declining, Ms. Michelle Babikian volunteered to take the minutes. Mr. Arnold Koresian named Mr. George Nahabedian to act as Parliamentarian.

Ms. Michelle Babikian read the minutes of the 1981 Parish Assembly Meeting. The only correction to the minutes dealt with the members of the Auditing Committee. Mr. Jack Hagopian moved to amend the minutes to read that Mr. John Mrofcza replaced Mr. Arnold Koresian on the Auditing Committee. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Agnes Pedian. The motion carried. With no further corrections, Mr. Haig Pedian moved to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Nishan Babikian seconded the motion, which carried.

The next order of business was the Parish Council Report. Mr. Koresian asked the Chairman of the Parish Council for his report.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - Dr. Hrach Hitik, Chairman of the Parish Council read the report. For details, please refer to the file copy.

At this time, Mr. Koresian informed us that the meeting would be governed by the By -Laws of the Armenian Church and Robert's Rules of Order.

The next order of business were the reports of the Church Organizations. Mr. Koresian suggested that the Organization Reports only be turned in by the respective organizations. Mrs. Agnes Pedian moved that all the Church Organization Reports be read to inform everyone of the activities throughout the year. This was seconded by Dr. Hrach Hitik. Discussion followed. Mr. George Nahabedian advised that the By -Laws state that the reports be examined, and not necessarily

read at the Parish Assembly Meeting. After much discussion, Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza called the motion to a vote. The motion carried. All the organizations would then be called upon to read their reports.

CHURCH ORGANIZATION REPORTS:

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY - Mrs. Siranoush Minassian read the Women's Auxiliary Report. For details, please refer to the file copy.

WOMEN'S GUILD - Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian, Chairman of the Women's Guild, submitted the report. Ms. Michelle Babikian read it.

ACYOA JUNIORS - The report of the ACYOA Juniors was submitted and then read by Ms. Babikian.

ACYOA SENIORS - No report was given.

NAIRI CHOIR - Mr. Sarkis Gircikian read the report of St. Gregory's Nairi Choir. For details, please refer to the file copy.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT - The Financial Report was passed out for reference to the assembly. Since everyone had a copy of the report, Mr. Sazian, the Parish Council Treasurer, asked if there were any questions. Mr. Pedian asked if the money market fund was insured. Mr. Sazian answered that it was not. Mr. Pedian suggested that the money be put in an insured money market fund. Mr. Sazian informed us that the time the money was deposited in the money market, these types of accounts were not insured. However, he said that it would soon be insured. For details of this report, please refer to the file copy.

Mr. Sazian was commended on the good job of keeping the books by the Auditing Committee. Mr. George Nahabedian, member of the Auditing Committee, said that with the help of Mr. John Mrofcza, this was the finest financial report submitted.

Ms. Violet Koresian referred to page 2 of the Financial Report with regard to the amounts of money submitted by the ACYOA Seniors for 1981. She corrected that the amount of \$675.00 submitted in 1981 should have been brought under the ACYOA Juniors.

Mr. Haig Pedian moved to accept the corrected Treasurer's Financial Report. Mrs. Dorothy Koresian seconded the motion, which carried.

AUDITING COMMITTEE - The Auditing Committee consisted of Dr. Vahe Karachorlu, Mr. John Mrofcza and Mr. George Nahabedian. The committee, which assisted with the presentation of the Financial Report above, stated that the auditing of the books was completed. The treasurer of the Parish Council was commended for the fine job of bookkeeping.

RESERVE FUND REPORT - The committee consisted of Dr. Hrach Hitik, Dr. Vahe Karachorlu and Mr. Haig Pedian. Mr. Pedian read the committee report. The Reserve Fund is deposited in the Bank of Lincolnwood. As on January 1, 1982, the balance was \$41,600.51. The balance as on December 31, 1982, was \$48,843.43, with \$7,242.92 of interest being earned during the year.

Mr. George Nahabedian moved that 10% of the assets that are in the checking and bank accounts of the Church (approximately \$36,000.00), or about \$3600.00, be transferred to the Reserve Fund. Dr. Hrach Hitik seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Dr. Karachorlu suggested that since no money has been transferred into the Reserve Fund for the last 3 years, 20% instead of 10% should be transferred.

Mr. John Mrofcza stated that we cannot discuss the transfer of funds into this account here, but must discuss this during New Business.

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian inquired as to why the Church seems to be so short on cash when we have so much cash available. Mr. Sazian answered that the money collected is always put into the money market as quickly as possible. Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio stated that the Parish Council should keep sufficient money with them for all the operating expenses of the Church throughout the year. She then reiterated Mrs. Koresian's statement.

Mr. Koresian said that this was out of order, and this should be discussed under New Business as we are presently discussing the Reserve Fund.

Mr. John Mrofcza said that we have not yet voted to accept the 1982 Reserve Fund Report. He also said that it was not fair for us to criticize the decision of the Parish Council in their money management practices.

Mr. Koresian said that we have strayed from the subject here. He withdrew Mr. Nahabedian's motion and would recognize it under the proper order of business.

Mr. George Nahabedian moved to accept the Reserve Fund Report. This was seconded by Mr. Matthew Klujian Jr. The motion carried.

1983 BUDGET - The 1983 Budget was included in the Treasurer's Financial Report. The budget for 1983 would be \$49,000.00. Mr. Haig Pedian moved to accept the budget. Dr. Karachorlu seconded the motion, which carried.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza, Mrs. Susu Klujian and Mrs. Seta Jerian were the members of the Nominating Committee. Mrs. Mrofcza reported that there 3 members of the Parish Council who had finished their terms. These 3 names would be put on the slate for reelection, along with Mr. Charles Babikian who was the only person contacted by the committee for Parish Council who accepted.

Then the committee presented the following slate of four candidates for the Parish Council:

Dr. Hrach Hitik
Mr. Walter Baronian
Ms. Violet Koresian
Mr. Charles Babikian

Mrs. Mrofcza then opened the nominations to the floor. Dr. Hitik asked that his name be withdrawn from the slate, and it was done. Then the following nominations were made from the floor:

Mr. Jack Cholakian
Mr. John Mrofcza
Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza

Mr. George Nahabedian moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Arsen Jerian. The motion carried. Three members for the Parish Council were to be elected. The result of the Parish Council election was as follows:

Mr. Walter Baronian	-	44 votes *
Mr. John Mrofcza	-	35 votes *
Mr. Charles Babikian	-	29 votes *
Ms. Violet Koresian	-	20 votes
Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza	-	9 votes
Mr. Jack Cholakian	-	5 votes

The committee then opened nominations to the floor for the Nominating Committee. The following nominations were made:-

Mrs. Silva Karachorlu
Mrs. Helen Babikian
Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio
Ms. Michelle Babikian
Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian
Mrs. Mary Sommese

Mrs. Mrofcza moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Nishan Babikian. The motion carried. Three members were to be elected. The result of the election was as follows:-

Mrs. Silva Karachorlu	-	39 votes *
Mrs. Pauline Nahabedian	-	24 votes *
Mrs. Helen Babikian	-	23 votes *
Mrs. Sadie Marcantonio	-	23 votes *
Ms. Michelle Babikian	-	16 votes
Mrs. Mary Sommese	-	13 votes

Since there was a tie for the third place, Mr. Matthew Klujian Jr. moved to accept 4 members on this committee, which was in accordance with the By-Laws. Mr. George Nahabedian seconded the motion, which carried.

The committee then opened nominations to the floor for the Auditing Committee. The following nominations were made:-

Mrs. Mary Sommese
Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza
Ms. Cynthia Paklaian
Mr. George Nahabedian
Mr. Arnold Koresian
Mr. Peter Bedrosian

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Arsen Jerian. The motion carried. Three members were to be elected. The results of the election was as follows:

Mr. Arnold Koresian	-	30 votes	*
Mr. George Nahabedian	-	30 votes	*
Mr. Peter Bedrosian	-	22 votes	*
Mrs. Mary Sommese	-	21 votes	
Ms. Cynthia Paklaian	-	20 votes	
Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza	-	15 votes	

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Haig Pedian asked whether the television set that Hayr Jirayr used was returned to the Church. Dr. Hrach Hitik answered that the set belonged to the Church and was with them.

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian asked what had been accomplished by the Ways and Means Committee which was formed at last year's meeting. Mr. Koresian, a member of the committee, answered that nothing had been done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. George Nahabedian referred to the 1983 budget with regard to the Clergy's expenses due to the fact that we have no Clergy. He moved that we transfer \$15,000.00 from the money market fund to the Reserve Fund. Mr Peter Bedrosian seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. John Mrofcza said that this implies that we have no intent to obtain a Clergyman. He said that this was unfair as we need a Clergyman. He said that we should not take away the \$15,000.00 from the Clergyman's part of the budget, but should transfer the money into the Reserve Fund.

Dr. Hrach Hitik said that we do need a permanent Clergyman, and if we take the \$15,000.00 and put this into the Reserve Fund and do get a priest, we will need the money.

Mr. Nahabedian said that if we put the money into the Reserve Fund, this is not to say that we cannot touch the money if we need it.

Mrs. Georgette Mrofcza asked if the Parish Assembly must decide

if the money in the Reserve Fund can be withdrawn. Since it does, then another emergency Parish Assembly meeting would have to be called in order to decide if the money can be withdrawn. She added that since members do not pay their dues normally until the end of the year, how could this meeting be held.

Mr. Garo Sazian asked why the assembly was apprehensive about depositing 10% or 20% of the treasury into the Reserve Fund.

Mr. Peter Bedrosian asked how much money there is in the treasury. It was replied that approximately \$36,000.00 was available.

Mr. John Mrofcza asked for an explanation of the Reserve Fund. Mr. Haig Pedian responded. This money is placed in the Reserve Fund for an emergency. He also explained that the Reserve Fund is guaranteed for up to \$100,000.00 by the Federal Government. He said that the Reserve Fund began with \$3,000.00 and went to \$48,000.00, without any addition from the Parish Council money.

Mr. Sazian explained that we need to keep the Money Market fund so that we receive the interest to pay the Church bills.

Mrs. Seta Jerian said that the way everyone is talking it seems as though we have no plans for making money during the year, which is not true.

Mr. John Mrofcza said that the \$15,000.00 in the money market should mature before it is taken out of the fund. Mr. Nahabedian explained that there was no maturity date and the money could be withdrawn at any time.

The motion made by Mr. Nahabedian was put to a vote. It carried.

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian asked why we have lost our young people (the Senior ACYOA), and how we can bring them back to the Church.

Discussion was made about Sunday School, Armenian School and the disinterest of the people.

Mr. Sazian said that we need a Parish Priest to strengthen our Church. Mrs. Jerian said that our Church is a family, and we must act as Christians and work together.

Mr. Jack Hagopian said that lack of communication is hurting our Church. We must strengthen the lines of communication.

Mrs. Jerian said that we need a Parish Priest, a Welcoming Committee for new members of the Church, and a cultural and educational committee.

Mr. John Mrofcza said that the By -Laws state that the duties of the Parish Assembly are to elect a Parish Priest, and there is a priest who has been coming to our Church. We do need a full-time priest. We must provide for the future of our Church, with services every Sunday, Armenian School and Sunday School.

Mr. George Nahabedian said that reference was made to Father Vahram Hazarian, who does not belong to our Diocese. Dr. Hrach Hitik said that Father Vahram cannot be our Parish Priest due to this fact. But Dr. Hitik added that he can be with us on a temporary basis until we get a priest.

Mr. Arsen Jerian said that we need to make a decision as to whether or not we want Father Vahram. Dr. Vahe Karachorlu said that we should not hire Father Vahram as our permanent priest but hire him on a full-time basis.

Mr. Matthew Klujian Jr. moved to hire Der Vahram Hazarian on a full-time basis. This was out of order as he is not recognized by the Diocese. Mr. Klujian then restated his motion to read that we hire Der Vahram Hazarian on a trial basis for one year as our Parish Priest, consequent to approval from Der Hayr and the Diocese. Dr. Karachorlu seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was put to a vote, and it carried.

Mr. George Nahabedian moved that the Parish Council has an Executive Body meeting 4 times a year with the church organizations, and a preliminary Parish Assembly meeting in December prior to the January meeting. Ms. Violet Koresian seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was put to a vote and it carried.

Mr. John Mrofcza moved to dissolve the Ways and Means Committee. This was seconded by Dr. Hitik, and the motion carried.

Mr. Mrofcza moved to change the dues from \$25.00 to \$50.00 for Church membership for one year. Mrs. Mrofcza seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mr. George Nahabedian explained that the Diocesan dues for last year were \$5200.00, and the amount collected for membership dues by the Parish Council was \$2400.00. This left the Church with a \$2800.00 deficit in order to cover the Diocesan dues. This would be one reason to raise the Church membership dues. However, Mr. Nahabedian suggested an amendment to Mr. Mrofcza's motion that would exempt those Church members between the ages of 18 to 21 years old and Senior Citizens. Therefore, Mr. Mrofcza amended his motion to read that with the exception of youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years old inclusive and Senior Citizens over the age of 65 years, the annual membership dues would be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00. The motion was put to a vote and it carried.

Mrs. Dorothy Koresian wanted to clarify that Mr. Matt Klujian's motion regarding the hiring of Father Vahram would involve the payment of his salary and not insurance, gas, etc.

Dr. Hitik then said that the Parish Council wished to show appreciation to certain people for their services for the year 1982, and their gifts were distributed.

Mrs. Rose Nahabedian said that she had heard some things about hall rental charges and wanted to say that the hall should not be charged for members for a funeral. Dr. Hrach Hitik, Chairman of the Parish Council, said that the Parish Council would consider this.

As all business was completed, Ms. Cynthia Paklaian moved to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Nishan Babikian. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. with a prayer led by Mr. Kegham Parseghian.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Babikian".

Michelle Babikian
Recording Secretary