

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. LEON'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY - JANUARY 26, 1975

Meeting was called to order by Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian at 1:00 P.M. with 89 members present. Der Arten Ashjian, Pastor, led the assembly in prayer.

A motion was made and seconded that Zaven Dadekian act as Chairman of this assembly. Another motion was made and seconded that Rebecca Hachikian act as recording secretary. The secretary's minutes of the Parish Assembly for 1974 were read and accepted with the following correction:

Ann Kachigian wanted the wording of the minutes corrected with reference to the recommendation that pupils of the Armenian School whose parents are not members pay a higher tuition than those who are. A motion was made and seconded by Rex Kachigian to accept the minutes as corrected.

Pastor's Report - Upon completion of the reading of this report by Der Arten; Al Voskian commented that the Pastor's Report should be incorporated into the Annual Report and mailed to the paid-members before hand. Further discussion on this was put off for New Business. Al Voskian questioned Der Hayre's statement about the complaints on the condition of the lawn. Rex Kachigian elaborated on this that a complaint was in fact received from the Borough of Fair Lawn resulting from a neighbor's complaint. James Noorigian agreed that the lawn is not in the best shape and questioned why the sprinkler system was not being used. This question was found out of order by Jon Najarian. Andy Dabbakian wished to correct Der Hayre's statement that "the Mr. & Mrs. Club is open to single adults," but only to Couples, Widows, and Widowers.

Marge Tfank made a motion to accept Der Hayre's Report; Noubar Jessourian seconded.

Parish Council Report - Rex Kachigian noted that the Stewardship Program was of great help. He wished to remind everyone that a new Chairman for this Program is needed. He stated that we all must keep in mind the long term goals of the Church.

Women's Guild - Andy Dabbakian commended the Ladies on another remarkable job done throughout the year.

Sunday School - Sarkis Bedevian stated that he has a few recommendations to be discussed but it would be brought out later on in the meeting.

Armenian School - There was a correction noted on the spelling of Substitute Teacher Marie Dellakian's name. This correction was noted in the report.

Choir Report - Sarkis Soultanian gave this report. There was no discussion.

A.C.Y.O.A. - There were no members present. No discussion was brought up.

Sports Association - Martin Kapoian gave facts on the reorganization of this group.

Historian Committee - This is a new committee formed. Agnes Voskian spoke on the fact that they are compiling a book and are in need of any and all old photographs, etc. available on the History of St. Leon's Church. Dottie Karamian suggested contacting Charles Holopikian who acted as the photographer in the Paterson Church.

Proposal of Parish Council on New Church Office - Study Committee on this Project was John Nakashian, Jerry Donabedian, and Sarkis Gabrellian. Copies of a complete report and floorplan were given out to those present. Discussion was opened on this report after committee members brought out both the pro's and con's.

Sarkis Bedevian motioned to table the vote on this proposal until later on in the assembly when other recommendations were also to be discussed. His motion was not seconded. Discussion continued with Sebouh Jessourian suggesting that the Cottage House be used as an office. John Nakashian noted that \$3,000 at least would be lost annually if this were to be done. James Noorigian suggested that we build back instead of moving up into the Church attic. Leon Hojegian moved to vote on the Proposal; it was seconded by Marge Semonian. A secret ballot was taken with the count being--48 votes NO - 31 votes YES - 1 Void. The Proposal was not passed.

Proposed 1975 Budget - A corrected statement on the Summary of Financial Assets - General Accounts heading will be sent to the dues paying members. There is a discrepancy as it appears in the annual report.

Henry Hagopian raised a question concerning the Armenian School disbursements and teachers salaries. Armenian School proposed budget is \$5,300. Harriet Kalemkerian questioned how the school can justify such a large disbursement. Martin Kapoian ran down the categories where the Armenian School will need more money to properly operate. Rex Kachigian elaborated further that the \$5,300 is only proposed and not approved. There was a misunderstanding between the Parish Council and the Armenian School; however, they have since turned over 80% of their funds. On request from the Parish Council the Armenian School made up a budget; it is not approved. Mr. Kachigian also stated that all major expenditures have to be approved by the Parish Council at all times. Martin Kapoian also stated that the Armenian School has been soliciting its own funds, ie. Valentines Dance, Plant Sale, Cake Sale.

James Noorigian also questioned why the Repairs and Maintenance proposal doubled. Vahram Varjabedian explained that there are a great many repairs necessary both in and around the Cottage House as well as around the outside of the Church.

Sarkis Gabrellian questioned why the Cottage House is not rented at this time. Rex Kachigian said because the Parish Council has been waiting for decision concerning the Sunday School facilities.

Sarkis Bedevian made a motion to delete the \$2,000 income from the Budget for the Cottage House but accept the Budget otherwise. He explained that the Cottage House should be used for classrooms for the Sunday School. He also suggested enclosing the Church Balcony by sound proof glass and pipe in the Badarak for instructional purposes.

Rebecca Hachikian suggested that the Sunday School formulate a committee to develop a plan for improvement of Sunday School facilities, with costs, etc., and bring it to the Parish Council at a later date or at the next Parish Assembly; rather than delete the \$2,000 income from the Cottage at this time.

The motion was not seconded.

Vahram Varjabedian stated that the Diocesan Dues went up to \$7,000 for 1975; therefore, the income from the Cottage House would be very beneficial in light of this.

The Budget was passed as proposed.

Sarkis Bedevian made a motion to enclose the Balcony. The motion was seconded. \$2,500 was appropriated for this with a modest contingency.

New Bueiness - Rex Kachigian made a motion that the Parish Council Room be made into a Temporary Office using part of the Vestry as well. He estimated the approximate cost at \$1,000. Yerestzgin stated that the machines must be locked up and away from access at all times when not in use. Der Hayre suggested that a committee be formed by the Parish Council for evaluation of this suggestion. Noubar Jessourian suggested to formulate a long range plan and not spend money unnecessarily on an office which would be built into a new building in the future. The motion was seconded; however the vote was 15 FOR - 21 AGAINST. Motion defeated.

Sarkis Bedevian proposed that the Parish Council formulate a committee to give the Parish a plan for future growth facilities by May 1st. Jon Najarian suggested that this committee be comprised of a member from each of the Church bodies. The motion was seconded and carried.

Sebouh Jessourian made a motion for the Parish Council to modify or repair the microphone system in the Church Auditorium. Martin Kapoian seconded it. \$1,000 was allocated for this. The motion was carried, 20 votes FOR - 4 AGAINST.

Al Voskian made a proposal in the form of a motion that all reports to be presented to the Annual Assembly be mailed out to each dues paying member no later than two weeks prior to the Parish Assembly. Tony Tungrian wanted to know how much it cost and how many reports were mailed out last year. No correct figures were immediately available. Sarkis Bedevian seconded Al Voskian's motion. Motion was carried - 27 votes FOR - 9 votes AGAINST.

Peter Kalemkerian made a motion to amend the previous motion by saying that "only the reports of all organizations be required to be mailed out two weeks before the Assembly." Henry Hagopian seconded the motion. The motion was not accepted - 11 votes FOR - 20 votes AGAINST.

Sarkis Bedevian proposed that a Ways and Means Committee and an Investment Committee be formulated. Rex Kachigian said that Jon Najarian was already head of an Investment Committee, however, they have not been active. Noubar Jessourian seconded the proposal. The vote was 21 FOR - 4 AGAINST. These committees will be organized.

Grace Pinajian commented that it may be practical to have both the Armenian School and Sunday School meet on the same day.

Zaven Dadekian asked for the ballot count regarding the nominees. 78 ballots were submitted. The following were elected:

PARISH COUNCIL:

George Dabagian
Sarkis Gabrellian
Rex Kachigian
Jon Najarian
Al Voskian
James Soojian - Alternate

votes?

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

Sarkis Bedevian
Sebouh Jessourian
Edward Torosian
John Voskian - Alternate

votes

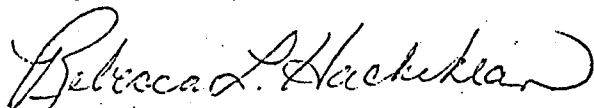
NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Zaven Dadekian
John Nakashian
Charles Pinajian
Noubar Jessourian - Alternate

votes

Zaven Dadekian thanked everyone for being present. Meeting ended at 5:15 with a benediction from Der Hayre.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca L. Hachikian
Recording Secretary