

MINUTES OF THE 1985 PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH

FAIR LAWN, N. J.

The Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, N. J. was called to order at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 24, 1985, by Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Ohnikian. Of 230 church members, there were 137 eligible voters present.

Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer.

Elected from the floor were the following officers of the day:

Chairman - Sarkis Bedevian

Secretary - Margaret Tfank

Parliamentarian - Joseph Basralian

Mr. Ohnikian turned the meeting over to Sarkis Bedevian who asked for the reading of the 1984 Minutes. They were accepted as corrected: A correction was made by Regina Ohanyan that Linda Capizzi was head of Care and Share rather than Regina Ohanyan.

Der Paree presented his annual report both in Armenian and English. In his report he dwelt on various phases of parish life and the challenges that lie ahead; namely, Endowment Fund, forming a fine arts committee and a special project to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Following his report, these suggestions were made:

1. That appreciation be extended to the Altar Guild, Maas Committee and the Management Committee, which have been overlooked.
2. That the Pastor's report be included in the advance mailing for future consideration. A motion was made and carried.
3. Ohannes Dellakian noted that Der Hayr's dedication to the church was omitted from the report.

The Chair accepted the Pastor's report upon recommendation from the Assembly with appreciation.

John Nakashian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, stated that to avoid delay, the elections be held at this time. The following were appointed to count the ballots: Florence Grunstra, Florence Gulkasian, Steven Kachigian and Dovie Tilbian. Olga Chongoushian was nominated to fill the incomplete slate for the 1985 Nominating Committee. It was noted that last year a motion had been made and carried that there be a short biography of each candidate included in the advance mailing. This was not done, and all present felt it was very important that it should be so in the future. There being no further nominations, the slate was closed. The Chair introduced each candidate to the Assembly and voting proceeded.

Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Ohnikian, gave his report. Omitted was the fact that the Sunday School Altar was donated by the Dabbakian and Vartanesian families in memory of their loved ones.

Organization Reports were given and accepted as presented.

Jacques Tossounian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that the Treasurer's books for 1984 were examined and found to be in proper order.

Treasurer, Steven Kachigian, presented the Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 1985. There was much discussion regarding heating conservation methods and the fact that there was an operating deficit in 1984. A motion was made and passed that the 1985 Budget be accepted. A record proposed budget for 1985 of \$145,000 was voted upon.

The following election results were given:

PARISH COUNCIL

John Nakashian - 114	Tony Tungrian - 79
Mirjan Kirian - 95	John Chagachbanian - 78
Arthur Ohnikian - 90	Tom Ashbahian - 76
Satenig Loughead, Alternate - 58	

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Jacques Tossounian - 110	John Voskian - 62
Margaret Tfank - 86	Gabriel Kaprelian, Alternate - 58

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dorothy Karamian - 98	Lucy Chagachbanian - 86
Edward Torosian - 96	Sebouh Jessourian, Alternate - 66

NEW BUSINESS

Leon Hojegian made a motion that all future church improvements include access ramps for the handicapped. The motion was passed. Arthur Ohnikian stated that car parking for the handicapped should not be used by anyone else.

Leon Hojegian proposed that "St. Leon Diocesan Delegates submit a proposal to have a line item included on the Diocesan Budget for the production of the new Sunday School curriculum (estimated cost: \$250,000)". Motion was passed.

Leon Hojegian suggested that the hospitality hour after church should have enough provisions to include the Sunday School children. The Chair considered this as an administrative matter and referred it to the Parish Council for enactment.

A recommendation was made that this Assembly be held earlier in the January-February time allotted period according to the Diocesan By-Laws. The Chair referred this administrative matter to the Parish Council for enactment.

Grace Pinajian proposed "that all organizations, other than St. Leon Parish organizations, using the Community Center be obligated to pay, at the least, the operative expenses of the center. The motion was passed.

Leon Hojegian made a motion "that the Parish extend Der Hayr's contract for five years". Chairman Sarkis Bedevian stated that the motion was out of order because Der Hayr does not have a contract and always is free to make the choice of staying or leaving the Parish. Mr. Hojegian then withdrew that motion and changed it to "prior to any pastoral or administrative change in St. Leon Parish, that a special Parish Assembly be convened to elect a search committee and discuss all other matters pertaining to the proposed change".

Considerable discussion followed which informed the Parish Assembly members:

1. That there was a possibility that Der Hayr may make a move to another Parish.
2. That the Parish Council had appointed a search committee consisting of Sarkis Bedevian, Arthur Ohnikian, Sarkis Soultanian and Dovie Tilbian, in case the above change should occur.

Der Hayr then spoke to all present, stating that there is always a possibility of a pastor moving, but he had not made such a decision as yet. He stressed that unity of this parish is of paramount importance and that discussions of this type add to the health and well-being of the membership.

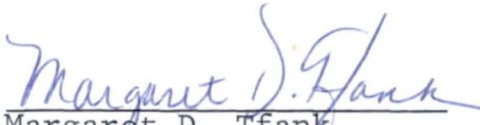
Ruth Bedevian moved "that until Der Hayr has made a decision, the above motion be tabled". The motion was passed after consultation with Parliamentarian Joseph Basralian. Mr. Hojegian's motion will be brought up at the next or a special assembly as the understanding prevails.

Sarkis Bedevian thanked Der Hayr for his dedication and service to this church and invited him to make his concluding remarks.

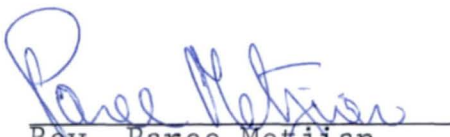
Der Paree in his remarks first extended his appreciation to the Chairman of the Parish Assembly, Sarkis Bedevian, Secretary, Margaret Tfank, and Parliamentarian, Joseph Basralian, for the outstanding work they did under the circumstances. Furthermore, he extended his appreciation to the outgoing Council members for their love and dedication to St. Leon and congratulated the newly elected members of the Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees. Der Paree expressed his utmost admiration to the members of St. Leon for being able to discuss and express their opinion about the future of the church. Again, he called on everyone to unity, harmony and the ability to work together for the welfare of the church.

Following his benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret D. Tfank
Recording Secretary

February 24, 1985


Rev. Paree Metjian
Assembly President


Sarkis Bedevian
Assembly Chairman