

MINUTES OF THE 1991 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD
FAIR LAWN, NEW JERSEY 07410

The Parish Assembly of St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, New Jersey, was called to order at 1:00 P.M., on Sunday, February 17, 1991, by Chairman of Parish Council, Charles Pinajian.

Opening prayer was offered by Fr. Arshen Aivazian.

There were 75 eligible voters present

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

Chairman	Sarkis Soultanian
Secretary	Patricia (Kafafian) Zengel
Parliamentarian	Joseph Basralian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - It was mentioned that the By-laws require a minimum of twelve (12) nominations for Parish Council. Six vacancies are to be filled. We have seven (7) nominations at present. One member will be rejected, which was stated that this would be unfair. Nominations were made from the floor as follows:

Olga Chongoushian	Declined
Jacques Tossounian	Declined
Jan Royland	Declined
Dr. Barry Halejian	Declined
Vicken Jessourian	Declined
Berjuhi Varjabedian	Declined
Arto Beylerian	Accepted
Sebouh Jessourian	Accepted
Nersess Babaian	Not eligible as a new Member

Rex Kachigian suggested we continue with the election, submit to Diocese and take a chance with the amount of names nominated. We just cannot get five more names to add for nominations.

Nominating Committee:	No nominations were added
Auditing Committee:	No nominations were added

The Chairman presented the slate for Parish Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees. There are six vacancies to be filled on Parish Council, three each on the Nominating and Auditing Committees. The ballots were distributed and votes were cast.

It was suggested that we dispense with reading of the minutes, as they were already distributed for review.

Correction and amendments in the minutes were accepted by motion, seconded and approved as follows:

- Page 22 Dr. Berdj Feredjian is incorrect, should be John Demirdjian.
- Page 24 Totally incorrect. New pages RE: Corrected Financial Report of Senior Citizens was distributed.
- Page 29 Accounting of Funds Listed; add Takvorian Fund, \$4,000.06. The total should read \$217,748.48.

Attention was brought to the fact that on Page 22, regarding the number of out-going Parish Council members, only five were listed, inadvertently leaving out Charles Pinajian. Charles thanked himself and it was no noted.

The 1990 Assembly minutes were accepted as presented, with the above corrections.

It was suggested that we dispense with the reading of reports, since everyone had them in their possession for their individual review.

REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS

PARISH COUNCIL - Charles Pinajian, outgoing Chairman, thanked outgoing members for their diligence and work in previous years. He stated that it takes a certain commitment of a member to serve his/her parish. It is difficult, but a pleasure. Charles stated that without Rex Kachigian as Vice-Chairman, much would not have been accomplished. Charles and Rex worked as a team. He thanked all outgoing members once again.

PASTOR'S REPORT - Der Hayr answered questions with regard to his "Handbook for Parishioners" It was mentioned that it was an excellent idea and Der Hayr should be complimented in preparing such a handbook. It is free of charge and available to all in the Narthex. It was brought to Der Hayr's attention that many parishioners did not know such a handbook was available. Der Hayr suggested that it be distributed during our meeting.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY REPORT - It was suggested that the unity issue be expounded upon. Der Hayr provided updated information regarding a draft set of By-laws presented to the Unity Committee.

SENIOR CITIZENS - The corrected Financial Report was distributed. Manuk Capan presented a check of \$1,400.00 as their contribution to Parish Council. This amount is reflected in the current Financial Report. Manuk has been both Chairman and Treasurer. Anyone wishing to help him as Treasurer is most welcome. Seniors have a good time when they are together. There are approximately fifty (50) to seventy (70) Seniors in the group right now.

ACYOA JUNIORS - It was suggested that much of their activities are socially oriented. They should strive to have more religious activities in the future. Parish Council can be their Liaison.

ACYOA SENIORS - Accepted.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL - Accepted

CHOIR - A question was raised regarding how the choir was progressing raising funds for new books and robes. Books have not yet been printed. It will still be a few months. Der Hayr noted that we are in need of new Badarak (blue) books. At least one hundred (100) could be used. Der Hayr asked Choir to consider this.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Accepted

CARE AND SHARE - It was stated that there was no Financial Report for this organization regarding their bake sale which made approximately \$200.00. It was noted that there is no budget, no expenses, etc., for this group. It was mentioned that the profit of this bake sale was given to the "Children of Armenia" fund.

Der Hayr mentioned that Care and Share is drafting By-laws regarding its purpose and goals as an organization, and Parish Council will be receiving these shortly. The question was raised, "Is Care and Share recognized in the Diocese?" The answer was, "No, only in St. Leon's do we have a Care and Share organization."

COMMENT ON ALL REPORTS IN GENERAL

Barbara Hovsepien stated that most reports do not tell very much. Reports should be made more detailed in the

future. She suggested that Financial Reports have additional explanation of fund raisers, etc. Specific purposes should be noted in all reports.

AUDITING COMMITTEE - The Treasurer's books should be kept and a report for the end of the year should be made. Financial Statement and 1991 Budget - Income and Expenses. Parish Council books are not listed as being done.

COMMUNITY CENTER - A question was raised, "Do we advertise to rent out the Community Center?" Answer: "No, basically it is word of mouth." Caterers come regularly and they recommend us. Page 24 states, "Community Center rentals proposed to be \$90,000.00, but the actual in 1990 was \$68,593.00."

Charles Pinajian stated that soon repairs will be needed. The carpeting is wearing, the kitchen will need repairs. Both restrooms have needed certain repairs recently. The Center is showing signs of ten years of wear and tear.

CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND - It was stated that the purpose of each fund should be listed on the report in the future. Der Hayr stated that endowment funds are growing over the years, and encourages more, such as bequests. Parish Council encourages families to consider the church as beneficiary in their wills. St. Leon is the leader in the Diocese regarding endowment funds. The question was raised whether we have endowment funds elsewhere. There are no other endowment funds; however Parish Council has purchased Certificates of Deposit, CD's. Inquiry was made regarding the purpose of the Andrew John Halejian Fund? Barry Halejian explained the purpose of this fund. It is to benefit children who would not otherwise be afforded the opportunity to go to Camp Nubar.

REGARDING THE CHURCH BUDGET - It was suggested that plate collections and weekly envelopes be listed separately so that money from dues-paying members and general funds may be noted. A motion was made by Sebouh Jessourian to that effect. Charles Pinajian stated that every effort is being made for greater breakdown of expenses and receipts for the coming year, including more detailed financial statements.

John Chagachbanian raised the question of St. Leon's being one of the few churches that does not have a ramp for easy access for the handicapped. Lengthy discussion resulted. Church expansion was mentioned, but that is not feasible in the next two years due to economic times. A

ramp is of immediate need. Yeretzgin Sirarpi Aivazian stated the spiritual aspect of the need for a ramp. She said that if even one person was kept out of the church, the church would not be happy. Church expansion is not in the immediate future; a ramp is of vital need now. Der Hayr mentioned economic times being hard. Grace Pinajian suggested that Berdj Feredjian head a feasibility committee to look into this. An amendment was proposed. Berdj did not accept the amendment. A new amendment to the motion was presented: Put a \$10,000.00 cap on installing a ramp for our immediate need. Completion of this to be within the 1991 calendar year. Parish Council is to be authorized to raise money to build the ramp.

It was noted that \$225,000.00 - \$250,000.00 was pledged for renovation. Money for the ramp should be used from those pledges. Der Hayr stated that that money was slated only for renovation. It was suggested that we ask those donors if a portion of that money could be used for the ramp. Barbara Hovsepien stood up and pledged \$1,000.00 towards the ramp and asked 9 more people to do the same. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted for resolution. Parish Council will proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Hovsepien proposed that all groups come together and work on an activity other than the Bazaar. They should work together, clear dates and set agendas. We should do something together for fellowship.

Discussion resulted regarding the beginning time of this meeting. It was suggested that it start at 11:30, not at 1:00. Der Hayr mentioned that if all deacons and choir members were here on time he could start services earlier. If they are not, he cannot. Der Hayr considered that the meeting be done in two separate sessions. Nominations could be held in one session and the second session could be the voting and business meeting.

Der Hayr thanked all outgoing members for their hard work and asked that they continue to help and work for their church.

Elections results were announced by the Nominating Committee. If anyone did not approve of the Assembly, they have up to one week in which to contact Der Hayr. Until the elections are approved by the Primate and Diocesan Council, present Parish Council continues in full effect.

The following election results were presented:

PARISH COUNCIL

Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian-Meyer
Araxie Moumdjian
George Sarkissians
William McMahon
Dorothy Karamian
John Demirdjian
Raffi Jessourian - Alternate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

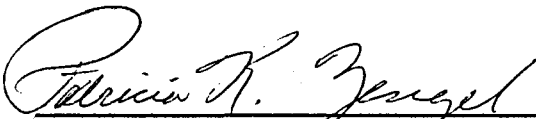
Sarkis Bedevian
Dawn Hourdajian
Vicken Jessourian
Berjouhi Parseghian - Alternate

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Robert Ishkanian
Ara Hourdajian
Peter Bedevian
Amy Vartoukian - Alternate

Following the benediction by Fr. Arshen, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 P. M.

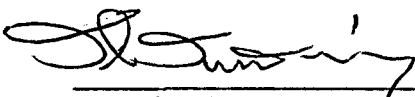
Respectfully submitted,



Patricia (Kafarian) Zengel
Assembly Secretary



Rev. Fr. Arshen Aivazian
Assembly President



Sarkis Soultanian
Assembly Chairman

ELECTION RESULTS

1991 PARISH ASSEMBLY

ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
12-61 SADDLE RIVER ROAD
FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410

PARISH ASSEMBLY

Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian-Meyer - 68
Araxie Moumdjian - 67
George Sarkissians - 58
Dorothy Karmanian - 57
William McMahan - 56
John Demirdjian - 52

Raffi Jessourian - 52 - Alternate

AUDITING

Robert Ishkanian - 58
Ara Hourdajian - 45
Peter Bedevian - 44

Amy Vartoukian - 43 - Alternate

NOMINATING

Sarkis Bedevian - 57
Dawn Hourdajian - 53
Vicken Jessourian - 42

Berjouhi Parseghian - 29 - Alternate