

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1995**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 PM by Joseph Basralian, the 1994 Parish Assembly Chairman. There were 83 members out of 240 in attendance. It was noted that Sarkis Soultanian, and not Joseph Basralian, called the 1994 Parish Assembly to order, having been the 1993 Assembly Chairman. A motion was made thereafter to waive the reading of the 1994 Parish Assembly minutes, as corrected. The motion was supported and approved.

Parish Council Chairman Rex Kachigian presented the candidates for Parish Council - -

Glenn Ajamian	S. Rex Kachigian
Leon Bedigian	Jack Loughhead
Barbara Boghosian	Leo Manuelian
Harry Harutunian	Arthur Ohnikian
Leon Hovsepian	Allan Tossoonian

Council Chairman Kachigian presented the candidates for the Auditing Committee - -

Robert Ishkanian	William McMahon
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Council Chairman Kachigian presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee - -

Seta Boudoughian	Isabelle Kaprelian	Edna Tungrian
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Election of officers for the Assembly followed with Council Chairman Kachigian nominating Mr. Joseph Basralian to the position of Chairman of the Assembly, which was seconded. There being no further nominations, the nomination was approved and Mr. Basralian accepted.

Council Chairman Kachigian nominated Linda Harutunian for Secretary of the Assembly, which was seconded. There being no further nominations, the nomination was approved. Mr. Basralian then appointed Sarkis Bedevian Parliamentarian for the Assembly.

Instructions were then given regarding voting. If more than six votes were cast for Parish Council the ballot would be declared invalid. The same rule would also apply to the Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee, as far as voting for more than the number requested. There were no additional nominations for the Parish Council, Auditing Committee or Nominating Committee. The nominations were closed.

A suggestion was made by Hayr soorp regarding the number of members of the Parish Council. He felt that perhaps consideration should be given to the reduction in number of the Parish Council members if two candidates could not be found for each seat.

The voting commenced at 12:25 PM.

Regarding the Pastor's Report, pages 15 to 18 of the Annual Report, Father Vahan felt it had been a successful year for our Parish, with Bible Study, Discussion Group, Deacon Training, Parish Council Meetings, Lectures, Retreats, etc. The two main events of the past year were Hayr Soorp's elevation to Vartabed and the elevation of six of young parish men to Sub-Deacons. He reiterated that the focus of the Assembly should be to gather as one family to worship God, and the highlight of the gathering to be the receiving of Communion. He then reminded the nominees for executive boards that Council members, *especially Parish Council members*, should regularly attend Church, Parish Council meetings and be there to assist Hayr Soorp. He thanked Rex Kachigian for his help over the past year, as well as all the organizations.

Rex Kachigian then thanked all the organizations for their help over the past year. He announced that the ACYOA Juniors raised the most money over the past year. He asked the Assembly if there were any changes for the organizational reports. ACYOA Juniors, none. ACYOA Seniors, none. Armenian School, none. Care and Share, none. Choir, none. (Hayr Soorp thanked the Choir for their dedication. They meet every other Tuesday and rehears in Church for hours. Barbara Hovsepian thanked them for sponsoring various cultural events). Men's Fellowship, none. Senior Citizen's, none. Women's Guild - Carol Ashbahian added the fact that the Guild supports two orphans in Armenia through CASP, that they do the cooking for the Food Festival and also help support Eva's Shelter.

CORRECTIONS

Jacques Tossounian noted the following corrections to the financial report. Page 34, the endowment fund for Anita Jessourian should be \$11,000.00; page 35, the Budget Auxiliary was shown as \$20,461.95, which incorrectly included the sum of \$7,532.00 (a 1995 deposit, for the correct total of \$12,929.95; a typo on page 38, the correct amount being \$2,000.00. Dr. Knarig Khatchadurian-Meyer said a mistake was made with respect to the Khatchadurian Fund as the amount should be \$5,000.00 instead of \$4,000.00.

PROPOSALS

- * Checks issued by all organizations should have two signatures.
- * Consideration should be given to using the services of an outside professional accounting firm. No estimate could be given regarding the cost for this service. Council Chairman Rex Kachigian mentioned that we might not need an outside accountant, since we now have the new software in place. He would like to try the software for a year before and other plans are made.

- * Mr. Tossounian also proposed changing the fiscal year end to November 30, rather than December 31. It would give the organizations more time to prepare their reports for the Parish Assembly. John Nakashian proposed that perhaps the meeting could be changed to a later date to give organizations more time to complete their reports. Rex Kachigian said that the Parish Assembly meeting could be either in January or February. However, with the new software system, Mr. Kachigian said the books would be reconciled each month and if the system works properly, less time will be needed to reconcile the books at the end of the year. The Diocese also closes its books on December 31 and we should be in accord with them.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to require a double signature on all checks issued by each organization. Sarkis Bedevian reminded the Assembly that as the President of this Church, Father Vahan could be used as a signatory for the checking accounts of all the organizations so that if a second signature was needed in an emergency, he could be approached.

Rex Kachigian informed the Assembly of the Internship Program which has been requested by the Diocese. Hayr Soorp mentioned that Deacon George Devejian graduated from the Seminary two years ago and is now preparing for ordination. Hayr Soorp has been asked to supervise his internship in St. Leon and the Parish has been asked to pay a portion of his salary. This amount is \$5,000.00. Both the Parish Council and Hayr Soorp have already approved of this program. This program will be for only one year. Deacon George will also receive an additional stipend from St. Nersess Seminary and the Diocese. Since this amount is not yet included in the Budget, it will have to be amended. Ara Hourdajian recommended that receipts be increased by \$5,000.00 to a total of \$236,000.00 to balance the Budget. Sarkis Bedevian made a motion to add \$5,000.00 to the clergy stipend for a total expenditure of \$89,000.00 Mr. Hourdajian suggested that the amount allocated for receipts for the Sacraments be increased to \$33,000.00 to cover this expense. Page 37, Reserve Fund, raise to \$5,600.00. Page 35, Miscellaneous Income, change to \$2,600.00. The Proposed Budget total was increased to \$236,000.00. Rose Najarian made a motion to amend the Budget as mentioned. The motion was seconded and approved.

The vote to accept the Budget as amended was seconded and approved as amended. Barbara Hovsepian made a motion to adopt the Internship Program for one year, as requested by the Primate, with a maximum cost of \$5,000.00. It is understood that Deacon George Devejian will be an employee of the Diocese, rather than St. Leon Church. According to Chairman Rex Kachigian, his salary will be paid to the Diocese and they will handle insurance responsibilities. All are in favor and the motion was duly seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Building Committee. Thomas Ashbahian spoke of the number of expansion projects;

1. An added storage facility to the Community Center.
2. Expansion of Caretaker's house - - waiting for bids.
3. Possibility of purchase of property top the south of the Church.

So far there has been discussion only. No firm commitments have been made. Council Chairman Kachigian read a letter regarding Church Expansion.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Chairman Kachigian informed the Assembly that the Parish Council is interested in starting an internal endowment program. Gregg Najarian explained the proposal. At this time, any endowments made to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund must be for a minimum of \$1,000.00. With this proposal, parishioners will be able to donate a certain amount weekly until a total of \$500.00 is reached. At that point the money would be sent to the ACEF and the interest only will be sent to St. Leon. Once the funds are received at St. Leon, the amount will be distributed to the organization specified by the donor. However, according to Jan Royland, the interest cannot go to any outside organization.

The thrust of this program is to encourage parishioners to endow without having to donate a lump sum at one time and for an initial outlay of less than usual. Barbara Hovsepien asked what kind of interest rates does ACEF get. The answer was a range of 6% - 6.4%. Barbara Boghosian asked why donate to the various organizations rather than just to the General Fund. Hayr Soorp explained that some people do request a specific organization, and we must give them that choice.

Mary Ann Mozian said that even though several endowments were for the Armenian School, they have never seen any interest checks for the School. The Armenian School has salaries and it is very difficult to pay the 80%, after expenses, back to Parish Council each year. They often are working in the red and then must go to the Parish Council and ask for additional funds to maintain the School. Sarkis Bedevian stated that no moneys are designated for the Armenian School general Fund. There are endowments just for scholarships. Council Chairman Kachigian stated that this was incorrect. Dr. Knarig Khatchadourian-Meyer said that the Khatchadourian Fund should be for scholarships rather than just general purposes of the Armenian School. Chairman Kachigian said that the original paperwork was for the general fund and could not be changed.

Hayr Soorp felt that the Armenian School and Sunday School should receive special attention, since they are essential parts of our Church ministry and mission. He felt that it should not be considered a moneymaking organization. He recommended that the School be allowed to operate in plus funds and be free to spend their money where it is needed most, rather than having to have to request additional funds from the Parish Council.

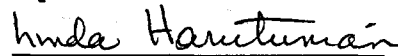
Barbara Hovsepien felt that the Endowment Program is a good idea, however, someone should be designated to help people set up endowment funds as they wish them to be used. Gregg Najarian said that he is our representative to the ACEF.

Rose Najarian made a motion to increase dues for Senior Citizen's from \$35.00 to \$50.00 Senior Citizen's are age 65 and older. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mary Ann Mozian gave us the results of the election. Three ballots were invalid because of improper voting. New Parish Council members are - Glenn Ajamian, Barbara Boghosian, Leo Manuelian, Arthur Ohnikian, Allan Tossoonian; Jack Loughead, (Alternate). The new Auditing Committee member is William McMahon. The new Nominating Committee member is Isabelle Kaprelian.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Hayr Soorp, at 2:00 PM.

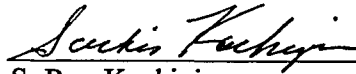
Respectfully submitted,



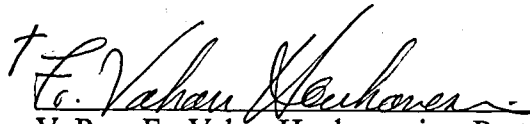
Linda Harutunian
Recording Secretary
1994 Parish Assembly



Joseph Basralian, Esq.
Chairman
1994 Parish Assembly



S. Rex Kachigian
Parish Council Chairman



V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhanessian, Pastor
President, St. Leon Armenian Church