

**MINUTES OF THE 1998 PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. LEON ARMENIAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 1, 1998**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rick Dabagian, Parish Council Chairman, at 12:30 PM. Father Vahan Hovhanessian opened the meeting with a prayer.

There were 93 members in attendance. Total parish membership for 1997 was 318.

Rick Dabagian requested a reading of the minutes from the 1997 Parish Assembly. A motion was made and seconded to waive the reading of the minutes from the previous Assembly. The motion passed.

Chairman Dabagian opened nominations for Assembly Chairman. The nominees were Sarkis Soultanian and Bert Bedrosian. Sarkis Soultanian withdrew prior to the vote. Bert Bedrosian was elected Chairman of the 1998 Parish Assembly.

Assembly Chairman, Bert Bedrosian, appointed Sarkis Soultanian as Parliamentarian. The appointment was accepted.

Linda Harutunian was nominated and approved as Secretary of the 1998 Parish Assembly.

The Assembly Chairman requested the report of the Nominating Committee and the presentation of the candidates for elected offices. Andrea Halejian gave the report on behalf of the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates. They were as follows:

CANDIDATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL

Jeffrey Boyajian	Nancy Burdman
Richard G. Dabagian	Linda Harutunian
Sandra Leitner	John Vaniskhian
Barbara Hovsepian	Greg Ashbahian

CANDIDATES FOR AUDITING COMMITTEE

William McMahon	Berdjouhi Parseghian
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CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Carol Ashbahian	Nancy Scicchitano
Linda Capizzi	Edna Tungrian
Dawn Hourdajian	Susan Yedibalian

Nominations were requested from the floor for the Parish Council, the Auditing Committee and the Nominating Committee. There were none. Father Vahan clarified voting procedures and noted that members may vote for less than the number requested on the ballot, but any ballots with more than the number of requested votes would be disqualified. Ballots were collected.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Father Vahan said that he had expressed all of his thoughts in "The Pastor's Report" on pages 10 to 15 in the Annual Report. He requested any suggestions or comments from the floor. Barbara Hovsepian thanked Father Vahan and the Parish Council for the education programs provided to all parishioners and the young people. Father Vahan asked more people to join the many programs in the Parish and said that it was an inspiring year. He thanked all parishioners and the Parish Council for being supportive. He also thanked all the organizations and all those people involved.

Mr. Soultanian asked for a vote to accept Father Vahan's report. It was seconded and accepted.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish Council Chairman Rick Dabagian asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Parish Council Report. He wanted to acknowledge the wonderful work that Father Vahan is doing. There were no questions and the report was accepted.

REPORTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS

ACYOA Juniors - There were no questions from the Assembly on the Report of the ACYOA Juniors.

ACYOA Seniors - The fact was brought up about the Sports Weekend which had been sponsored by the Seniors. \$850.00 which had been pledged was paid in 1997. There is still a balance of \$3,400.00 of the remaining debt. It was also mentioned that there are only two churches which have a senior organization.

Armenian School - Mary Ann Mozian stated there was nothing additional to add to the report. She did mention that there was 100% increase in enrollment and there are now 47 students.

Church Choir - Barbara Hovsepian complimented the Choir on their sponsorship of musical programs.

Men's Fellowship - There were no questions from the Assembly on the Report of the Men's Fellowship.

Senior Center - There were no questions from the Assembly on the Report of the Senior Center.

Sunday School - Barbara Hovsepian brought up the fact that the Sunday School has a Lenten project which involves donations for world hunger. She asked if the entire parish could be involved. It was suggested that Mrs. Hovsepian wait for the new Parish Council and bring the matter up before them. Rose Najarian asked about the weekly attendance. Araxie Moumdjian said there is 85% attendance.

Women's Guild - There were no questions from the Assembly on the Report of the Women's Guild.

Auditing Committee - Bill McMahon said there were no additional comments to add to the report.

1998 BUDGET REPORT

Barbara Hovsepian asked about the earnings of the Endowment Funds. The answer is that the money is earning approximately 7%. Bob Ishkanian thanked Greg Ashbahian for the new software. Revenues of \$284,796 for 1997 exceeded the proposal. Special donations, the book store, and funds for a new vehicle are non-recurring income. Disbursements of \$267,881 leaves a surplus of \$16,915.

It was asked why the income from the Community Center was down. Alice Yazmajian said that part of the reason is that Church functions always come first and sometimes a rental is turned down. Father Vahan suggested that the construction at the Church last year may also have affected rentals.

Mary Ann Mozian stated that the organizations should have priority for use of the Community Center, especially if they need to use the kitchen to prepare food for an event. Charles Pinajian stated that Alice Yazmajian is doing a great job, but maybe a committee should be formed to help her. Rick Dabagian also acknowledged Alice's hard work. A request was made for any other questions. There were none.

The two (2) Proposals for Consideration Recommended by the Parish Council on Page 35 of the Annual Report were read and a discussion followed. Barry Halejian asked if any approval would be needed to spend the money. The answer was no. Only large items in nature - ex: roof. That would be a Capital Improvement. Small repairs do not need approval. The fund will be added to each year - even if it has not been expended. Sarkis Soultanian said he was against the idea since it seemed haphazard. Father Vahan said the reserve fund for the Community Center did not include maintenance for anything else. Leon Hovsepian suggested that we fund the money every year. Koko Ohannessian said we do not have anything pressing at this time to spend the money on. He stated it would not be a beautification fund - just for repairs and maintenance. Sarkis Soultanian stated that the reserve fund should be for major improvements. Greg Ashbahian said we cannot tell in advance about problems which might occur in the coming year. The Assembly Chairman called for an end to the discussion and resolution of the proposal.

Proposal #1 was approved. The Budget was accepted, seconded and approved.

Proposal #2 - The discussion was about the need of a utility truck rather than the van which is no longer used as a van. The plans would be to purchase a used truck for \$5,000 to \$10,000. Sarkis Soutanian wanted to add a line to the Budget stating - Capital Expenditure from Reserve Fund to purchase a vehicle with a cost up to \$10,000 at the discretion of the Parish Council. At this point Mr. Gabrellian offered to donate \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new vehicle. John Nakashian asked if we really need this vehicle. Rose Najarian asked if we then need to keep \$10,000 in the Fund. Bob Ishkanian then suggested the line be changed to - "The Parish Council believes that a passenger van is no longer required and would desire to use this fund for the future vehicle needs of the Parish." The motion was then accepted, seconded and approved.

RESOLUTION AND PROPOSAL

Whereas the financial security of any organization in this world depends on establishing endowment funds which secure a steady annual income to the organization; and

Whereas St. Leon Armenian Church has been actively pursuing the promotion of religious, spiritual and social programs which would require funding and need to be paid by from items within the operating budget; and

Whereas we realize the essential importance and need for the St. Leon Parish and its programs to exist and continue to serve our children and for generations to come and

Whereas Mr. Sarkis Gabrellian and Mr. Sarkis Soutanian have demonstrated a superb experience in the field of raising and managing funds for Church programs, be it on a Diocesan or local parish level;

Be it resolved that the St. Leon Assembly appoints a committee to be in charge of establishing a St. Leon Endowment Fund under the co-chairmanship of Mr. Sarkis Gabrellian and Mr. Sarkis Soutanian. This committee will be in charge of raising funds for the St. Leon parish to be used to establish an endowment fund, the annual income of which will be used for the St. Leon Parish operation and programs.

After various comments the proposal was accepted, seconded and approved.

ELECTION RESULTS

Parish Council	Greg Ashbahian - Nancy Burdman - Richard Dabagian - Sandra Leitner - Barbara Hovsepian, Alternate
Auditing Committee	Bill McMahon Berdjouhi Parseghian, Alternate
Nominating Committee	Carol Ashbahian Dawn Hourdajian Susan Yedibalian, Alternate

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Sarkis Soultanian stated how saddened the entire Building Committee was by the loss of Jacques Tossounian. He thanked Amy Vartoukian for stepping in and for her help. He mentioned that part of the bank loan has been paid. With continued good cash flow (payment of pledges), it will help pay the ACEF. We still need pledges and more fund raising. We can hopefully pay off all loans by 1999. When asked about plaques he said they should be done by the end of 1998. Sarkis Gabrellian stated that the stained glass windows should be finished within four (4) months.


NEW BUSINESS


There was none.

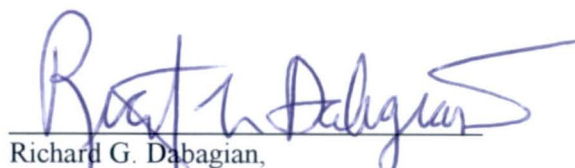
A motion was made to close the Assembly. It was accepted, seconded and approved.

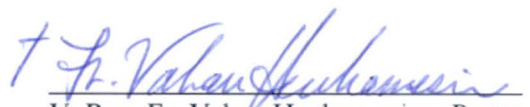
The meeting ended with a prayer, led by Father Vahan, and was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Harutunian, Secretary
1998 Parish Assembly


Bert Bedrosian, Chairman
1998 Parish Assembly


Richard G. Dabagian,
Parish Council Chairman


V. Rev. Fr. Vahan Hovhannessian, Pastor
President, 1997 Parish Assembly

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