

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

January 22, 1978

The annual Parish Assembly Meeting was held on Sunday, January 22, 1978 at 1:25 P.M. in St. Gregory Armenian Church Hall.

- I. Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian, chairman of the Parish Council called the meeting to order followed by Der Kevork Arakelian's invocation.
- II. Mr. Edward Serayderian read the roll call. Sixty-Five members had paid and a quorum of 35 was present. (2 out of the 35 were new members)
- III. Election of Assembly Chairman and Secretary Pro Tem.
 - A. Deacon Hrair Dekmejian moved that Dr. Robert Bogdasarian be chairman pro tem. The motion then being seconded by Dr. Garabed Fattal - unanimous decision.
 - B. Dr. Garabed Fattal moved to nominate Hagop Injajigian as Secretary Pro Tem. Deacon Hrair Dekmejian seconded motion - unanimous decision.
- IV. The minutes of the 1977 Annual Parish Assembly were read by Secretary Pro Tem Hagop Injajigian and the minutes were accepted as read.
- V. Financial Report:
 - a. Mr. Michael Ketchoyian of the Auditing Committee presented the financial report of 1977 as seen on the appropriate sheets.
 - b. Some of the highlights were
 1. Net activities totaled a minus (\$2,169.21)
 2. Balance of assets amounted to \$19,231.86
 - c. Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian then gave reasons for increase in expenditures. Diocesan dues increased the past year from \$2800 to \$3577 (\$777 yr/ increase) This complaint of inequity in assessing parishes was brought forth at the November Diocesan Regional Meeting in Niagra Falls. Twenty-Five per cent of assessment was based on income other than dues. The Toronto and Montreal parishes (each consisting of 350 members) were assessed on a \$17,000 figure, but only reported \$14,380, where St. Gregory's parish of 60 members was on a similar \$17,000 figure and faithfully kept up in payments. Questions then arose concerning this discrepancy.

VI. Treasurer's Report: and General Business:

Mr. John Bogdasarian presented the treasurer's report of 1977. Some highlights included

- A. A total expense of \$29,867
- B. Added costs for replacement of roof amounting to \$2,000.
- C. Estimated Building Expenses for coming year anticipated at no more than \$3,600.
- D. Increase in Der Hayr's Stipend (every 3 years Der Hayrs seniority increase)
- E. A reported income total of \$25,600 indicated a difference, a \$4,267 deficit between expense and income. Suggestions on how to narrow this deficit were
 1. Withdraw money from savings
 2. Generate more income from dance, hold more affairs, along with more individual effort. This urgent need for more outside income was reiterated by Dr. Bogdasarian. He encouraged the cooperation of everyone.
 3. Questions on how to reduce church assessment were forwarded by Deacon Hrair Dekmejian and Mr. Henry Kachadourian. Mr. Kachadourian stating that a good portion of our budget is in control by the Diocese and not us.
- F. Nishan Ketchoyian and John Bogdasarian stated that pledges of some \$2600 received in 1976 were not received in 1977. The last amount received was \$1,000 from the Women's Guild.
- G. As part of the budget this year at the Diocesan Assembly in Providence, it was passed that all clergy participate in an IRA plan (proposed by Connecticut General Life). The Diocese proposed that each parish allocate \$750 for this IRA plan. The proposal was voted down by parish council. Our Parish Council would not participate until the matter was brought forth to the parishoners.
 1. Deacon Hrair stated-to his knowledge that there was no formal group retirement plan among clergy
 2. Ralph Hatoonian thought that IRA was a good plan and Dr. Fattal seconded it. (if not IRA then money should be set aside for some retirement plan)
 3. Mrs. Alice Boyajian was for IRA plan and supported the Diocesan assessment plan. St. Gregory's could not survive without Diocese
 4. Henry Kachadourian thought that with increase in expenses for upcoming year that St. Gregory's could have problems generating the \$750 for IRA

5. Louise Kontos added that Der Hayr along with St. Gregory's come up with the \$750 annuum for IRA.
6. General discussion among parishioners concerning future of St. Gregory's included:
 - a. Dr. Fattal thought that new Parish Council should discuss with Diocese of assessment inequity.
 - b. Der Hayr appealed to all members to pull and work together, to raise funds as a WHOLE and
 - c. Dr. Rejebian added the fact that aggressive soliciting would overcome expenditures.
7. Dr. Rejebian made a motion to vote a maximum annual contribution of \$750 above and beyond salary for Der Hayr's retirement plan (IRA) starting in 1978. Mr. Michael Medzigian seconded the motion: (It was previously decided 1. that parish council would determine whether contributions to the IRA fund be kept separate from pledge income and 2. a closed vote be taken for approval of IRA fund).
The formation of an IRA plan was passed by a 24 yes to 13 no vote. ✓
8. Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian continued with General Business.
 - a. Port Crane Property Development- included installation of septic tank, sewer lines, the land was graded with addition of top soil with future intention of refurbishing picnic house (Bathroom installation, refrigerator, etc.) Total cost of project was estimated at \$2500. When question was brought up of renting picnic area to outsiders, Parish Council decided against proposal due to addition of liability insurance, etc.
 - b. Church roof was repaired twice in 1977 plus the addition of new storage area amounted to a total cost of \$7500.

VII

New Business:

- A. Approval of 1978 Budget:
Dr. Fattal made a motion to approve the budget- motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Ketchoyian and carried through.
- B. Women's Guild Report:
 1. Treasurer's Report by Mrs. Grace Baradet found Women's Guild running at deficit because of \$1,000 contribution Parish Council was made in 1977 and not 1978.
 2. Balance on hand as of 12/31/77 was \$1033.49
- C. Church Attendance
 1. Mrs. Alice Boyajian and Der Hayr agreed that church service attendance was poor. Der Hayr thought that if there was a problem of not coming to church we should find out what it is. The whole problem revolved around COMMITMENT.

2. Ecumenical Services - Being a member of South Side Council of Churches. Do we want to continue? General discussion was then brought to the floor.
- Der Hayr - stressed importance of community commitment. Bible studies and lectures were started; no one attended.
 - Gus Kerjelian - raised a question of why should we commit ourselves to ecumenical service, people do not attend Armenian Church Service.
 - Dr. Bogdasarian - "let's think before acting" How we Armenians become recognized in community
 - Parish Council's view - St. Gregory 's is a member of South Side Churches but what do the people want.
 - Der Hayr explained CHOW program. One aspect of SSPC which provides food for needy people at which
 - Mrs. Ruth Garabedian made motion that a vote be taken to withdraw from SS ecumenical council. - Mrs. Alice Ketchoyian seconded motion - discussion continued
 - Mrs. Rejebian wanted us to explain our limited participation
 - Dr. Kachadourian - important to be part of ecumenical council. It was time that Armenians remain in community forefront.
 - Mrs. Carol Bogdasarian - preferred we stay out - thought we should not be mixed up in Protestant practices.
 - Dr. Bogdasarian - thought the attendance be left voluntary and should not vote to pull out.
 - Dr. Fattal - thought that we should leave it to Der Hayr to involve us in council - to do it with disgression.
 - Paul Ketchoyian - thought since our congregation as a whole showed no interest, that we can participate through our organizations, choir, parish council, youth group, etc.
 - Mrs. Garabedian's proposal to pull out of the SSPC was put to a vote and defeated.

Aside before Nomination and Elections

1. Mr. Nishan Ketchoyian informed the parishoners that May's Diocesan Assembly was to be held in Detroit and urged everyone's attendance since Archbishop Torkom was to be up for re-election.
2. Der Hayr Kevork - Thanked everyone in past year - Choir, Deacons and everyone involved in church activities.

D. Nominations and Elections

- Dr. Garabed Fattal opened the floor for nomination to Parish Council

- I. The following were nominated to Parish Council.
(the first 3 being up for re-election)

a. Edward Serayderian	31
b. George Rejebian	31
c. Arthur Kradjian	31
d. Carol Bogdasarian	19
e. Harry Sarkissian	15
f. Armen Boyajian	3

The first 4 were elected.

2. Election of the Auditing Committee.
The following were nominated and elected unanimously to the Auditing Committee. ||

- a. Mr. Michael Ketchoyian
- b. Dr. A. Kachadourian

3. Election of Nominating Committee
The following people were nominated and unanimously elected to the Nominating Committee. ||

- a. Mrs. Alice Boyajian
- b. Dr. Robert Bogdasarian
- c. Dr. Garabed Fattal

- Mr. Michael Medzigian made a motion to close all nominations for all 3 categories.
- motion seconded by Mr. Ralph Hatoonian and carried through.

VIII. Adjournment and Benediction

A motion was made by Hagop Injajigian for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Edward Serayderian. The benediction was given by Der Kevork Arakelian and the meeting was officially adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

- Many thanks to Mrs. Rose Ketchoyian for typing this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Hagop Injajigian

Secretary Pro Tem
Parish Assembly Meeting