

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING - ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN APOSTALIC CHURCH

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK

On January 26, 1969, the annual meeting of subject church was held at 3 pm. Hrair Dekmejian was designated as temporary chairman and Michael Ketchoyian was temporary secretary of the meeting. Motion was passed unanimously.

The minutes of the meeting for 1968, held February 11, 1968, were read by Dr. Robert Bogdasarian. It was accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report

Read by Dr. Vahe Garabedian. Thirty members of 40 have paid their dues. The accounting of the church bookkeeping records was audited by Michael Ketchoyian this date and approved.

The new tentative budget was presented by Dr. Garabedian. It was revealed that this budget was considered low despite the increased expenditures earmarked for 1969. The budget was approved and passed with a 10% increase.

President's Report

Read by Dr. Bogdasarian. Monthly meetings of the Parish Council are recorded in its minutes.

During 1968, the deed to our church was sent to the Diocese in New York City as requested by same. The Binghamton Chapter of the ACYOA (Armenian Church Youth Organization of America) was inaugurated with Raymond Serayderian as its first president. The ACYOA held several functions:

1. Bake sale.
2. Trimmed a Christmas tree on Main Street, Binghamton, as competition of all local churches and organizations to determine the most original and creative Christmas tree.
3. Several speakers talked to our youth members towards establishing goals and offering guidance.

Dr. Bogdasarian brought out the fact that the Ladies Guild has had difficulty putting on church dinners because of lack of cooperation of members. This will be further discussed under "New Business".

Committee Reports

1. Women's Guild - Mrs. Lillian Mahakian
2. Sunday School - Michael Ketchoyian
Mr. Ketchoyian stressed the need for additional help in Sunday School teachers as well as the fact that more parents should bring their children to Sunday School for greater active participation in activities.
3. ACYOA - Raymond Serayderian
4. Choir - directed by Mrs. Lillian Mahakian
5. Armenian School - active despite decline in attendance this year.

Old Business

It was learned that maintaining a priest or "kahana" would cost in the neighborhood of \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 a year stipend plus maintenance. Everyone believes a resident clergyman will make the church grow and be more beneficial. It was decided to postpone our appeal to the Diocese for one year to determine the progress of our finances for 1969. This ties in directly with our membership committee.

in 1968, a motion was passed to adopt the pledge system. Because of the unfamiliarity of this system by most church members, this did not turn out as successful as anticipated. As a result, a membership committee was formed headed by Doctor George Rejebian to select one or two people of his choice. They would talk to all members and would-be members in order to encourage participation in the pledge system. This motion was accepted and passed.

On priest visitation, suggestions were made to initiate arrangements to hold seminars and discussion as well as house visitations during a clergyman's visit to our city. This was approved and passed.

New Business

Nominations and Election of Parish Council members:

Dr. Robert Bogdasarian	20 votes
Dr. Vahe Garabedian	19 votes
Michael Medzigian	18 votes
Ara Misakyan	17 votes
George Sarkisian	10 votes
Peter Rejebian	4 votes

Therefore, the new officers will be:

Dr. Robert Bogdasarian
Dr. Vahe Garabedian
Michael Medzigian
Ara Misakyan

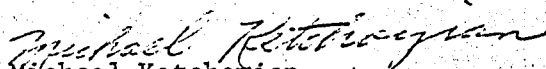
In addition, Nishan Ketchoyian will complete the team of five members on our Board of Trustees. Mr. Ketchoyian was a holdover from his election of last year, therefore, was not up for reelection.

As previously mentioned by Dr. Bogdasarian, the Ladies Guild has had difficulty putting on church dinners because of lack of people to help. The idea of family commitments on church dinners was proposed. Each family group within the church will take turns helping to put on dinners when the need arises. Everyone wholeheartedly agreed because the burden is apportioned to the entire congregation and makes the work load lighter. There will not be the same two or three people carrying the burden as it has been for years. The motion was passed on family commitments for church dinners.

Another item of new business was brought forth. It was agreed that a direct appeal to the other half of the local Armenian community to attend church and partake in worship in our church; perhaps to actively participate in church activities ultimately when the sincerity of this group emerges. Mr. Michael Ketchoyian volunteered to attend a function with Mr. Michael Medzigian provided they accept the two men to talk to their group. This motion was passed, and their acceptance of the two men is pending.

Meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully,


Michael Ketchoyian
Temporary Secretary