

ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN CHURCH, BINGHAMTON, N.Y.
PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Sunday, December 5, 1994 11 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by Chairman, Dr. George Rejebian with a prayer. It was attended by 27 paid members.

Dr. Vahe Garabedian was elected Chairman Pro Tem and Grace Baradet was elected Secretary Pro Tem.

With no objections, the minutes of the December 1993 were not read.

The Chairman, Dr. George Rejebian, read his report.

The Treasurer's proposed budget for 1995 was submitted. Questions were asked and answered about the interest rates for the money sent to the Diocesan Endowment Fund. The Operating Fund was drawn down \$8,000 for the last two years (\$4,000 each year). Pledges need to be increased by \$4,000 to keep the budget current. Checks for pledges have to be marked "Pledge" otherwise, it goes into the account as a donation. There was no further discussion.

The Auditing Committee consisted of Dr. Vahe Garabedian, Dr. Vivian Rejebian George, and Michael Ketchoyian.

Alice Bogdasarian, Chairman of the Women's Guild read her report. She regretted that the Guild would not be able to give a check to the Parish Council this year due to the lack of funds. The Guild has purchased a new dishwasher and a large coffee urn.

Diocesan Delegate, Alice Bogdasarian, gave her report on the Diocesan Assembly held in Houston, Texas on May 28-April 1, 1994. Alice was thanked for a comprehensive report.

It was suggested by Harry Kradjian that a financial balance be presented year to year to compare with previous year's balance.

Rev. Arten Ashjian will be visiting to celebrate Divine Liturgy on December 18 and for Armenian Christmas on January 8.

There was a discussion on the need to entertain visiting priests on Saturday evening and again on Sunday if there is no dinner at the church. Along the same lines, the members were asked to commit to sponsoring church dinners.

Dr. Garabed Fattal made a motion to alphabetize the members list for entertaining priests as well as putting on dinners. It was seconded by Marion Rejebian. Louise Kontos felt that Parish Council should entertain the priest first before calling on others in the parish. It was pointed out that that was currently being done.

Adrienne Kachadourian suggested that members that want to sponsor a badarak, i.e. paying for a priest, in order to have church more often. This still would not answer the problem we have finding people to entertain the priest. In regard to this matter, a letter was sent to the members last February with no response.

It was mentioned that the mechanics of donating or raising money would be the same whether a pledge is made or a badarak is sponsored.

In response to a statement that we need a full time priest to keep the parish together, it was pointed out that we would need to increase the budget \$40,000-50,000 in order to have enough to support a priest. We need to keep our expenses within reason.

Dr. Garabed Fattal made the suggestion that personal contact be made with every member and non -member regarding a financial contribution with a need to looking ahead a few years. Years ago we did very well with our pledge drives but attitudes have changed. The Diocese was going to send someone last year to help us with our problem but never did. The personal approach is best since it is hard to say no to your face. Commitment and desire are important but everyone needs to be solicited. Dedication and enthusiasm are the answers.

The solution might be to appoint a committee made up of P.C. members as well as others with a goal to raising money.

Alice Bogdasarian made a motion that the PC call an interim meeting of the Parish Assembly to present the results of the pledge campaign by May 1, 1995. The motion was seconded by Deran Kradjian and carried by 19 votes.

Announcements: A Christmas greeting letter will be mailed soon and all those who would like their names listed for a small donation should sign the sheet. Those who have not paid their dues for 1994 should do so immediately. The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday, December 6. Pledges for 1995 made now will help our budget.

The slate of people running for PC was presented by the Nominating Committee. There were nominations from the floor which were added to the ballots and the nominations closed.

The roll was called and the ballot handed out for voting.

The following is the slate that was voted upon:

Parish Council (Select 3)

Ursula Findikyan	16 votes
Lucas Sarkisian	20 votes
Louise Kontos	8 votes
Vahe Garabedian	27 votes
Adrienne Kachadourian	10 votes

Diocesan Delegate (Select 1)

Alice Bogdasarian	18 votes
Art Kachadourian	9 votes

Auditing Committee (Select 3)

Michael Ketchoyian	26 votes
Deran Kradjian	26 votes
Vahe Garabedian	26 votes

The nominations were made, closed and seconded for Parish Council, Diocesan Delegate, and Auditing Committee.

A motion was made and seconded that Art Kachadourian be appointed alternate for Diocesan Delegate.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace S. Baradet
Secretary Pro Tem