

ST. GREGORY THE ILLUMINATOR ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting  
December 7, 1997

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 pm by the Chairman, Dr. Garabed Fattal.
- II. *The roll call showed 28 dues paying members were present.*
- III. Robert George was elected Chairman Pro Tem and Grace Baradet as Secretary Pro Tem. Their nominations were accepted as proposed.
- IV. The minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting of December 8, 1996 <sup>etc</sup> was read and accepted.

A packet had previously been mailed to the paid membership containing the reports of the Chairman, Diratsoo, Treasurer. Women's Guild financial report, and the Diocesan Delegate.

Chairman, Dr. Garabed Fattal presented his report.

Diratsoo George Devejian read his report and stated that he will try to set forth some projects for the community such as to organize a commemoration for the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 1998. It might include a service at the replica of an Armenian monument at the Jewish Community Center. He would also like to continue to have more cultural, educational, and spiritual meetings.

The Treasurer, Dr. Vahe Garabedian, discussed his report. He replied, in answer to a question, that the Raymond Co. stock was sold but that the church still has the IBM stock. In regard to the Diocesan dues - each dues paying member is assessed \$54.00 by the Diocese according to a formula. Our parish has been paying the difference between that amount and the \$35 annual dues. This issue will be addressed further under new business.

The Women's Guild report was read by Chairlady Louise Kontos. She stated that the Guild was raising funds to benefit our church and they were presenting the Parish Council today with a check for \$1,000.00. Lusine Szentendrey has donated a 19th century Armenian costumed doll which is on display at the Roberson Christmas Forest currently. The financial report was included in the mailed packet.

The Diocesan Delegate Alice Bogdasarian's report was presented.

V. No old business was discussed. The President Pro Tem, Robert George thanked everyone and went on to state that input from the Parish is needed to direct the Parish Council in implementing the goals for the future of our church.

VI. New Business

In spite of a shortfall in the budget, someone is needed, perhaps a temp, for organizing, mailing, sending out a newsletter, and secretarial work to allow the Deacon to do other duties. A telephone chain was suggested as part of communicating to the parishioners. Money is not available to pay someone to do this kind of work.

Since the Women's Guild already has someone to send out sunshine cards, it was decided to expand the fund to include all parishioners instead of just Women Guild members.

A query was made whether Parish Council has expressed their expectations of the Deacon and also what does the Deacon expects from the parish. Are there any guidelines at present? This whole issue will be taken under consideration.

It was stated that more volunteerism was needed from the members. Do not wait to be asked.

Diratsoo has been using personal funds on various projects, so it was pointed out that there is a scholarship fund that can be used for these purposes. Diratsoo commented that it was a new experience for him and there are so many projects and he sees tremendous possibilities and wants to be intimately involved.

A suggestion was made that cultural projects be underwritten by individual families. What it really comes down to is communication and volunteerism. Everyone needs to participate since we don't have the church funds to pay for these projects. There is a need to establish processes as to how to accomplish our goals.

*In regard to the budget, there is a deficit of \$4,678.00. The auditor expressed the need to control expenses. Suggestions were made to notify everyone when special events take place so that monies can be found to cover costs. There is a need to maximize profits and pay more attention to details. It was*

*emphasized we should all support all Parish Council and Women's Guild fund raising functions as pledges alone cannot cover all of the church expenses.*

A motion was made that the parish dues be *increased from the current \$35.00 a year to \$55.00 for 1998.* This amount will apply to all, without exemption for age, since the majority of the members are over 60 years old. The motion was made and carried.

It was proposed by motion that the fiscal year be changed to January 1 through December 31 instead of October to October. After discussions, a vote was called on the question to terminate discussion. By a vote of 9 for and 18 against the change, the motion was defeated. The fiscal year will stand as it currently is October through October.

Entertaining out-of-town priests has fallen on just a few people, so a suggestion was made to have a sign-up list for that as well as for sponsoring coffee hours after services. After some discussion, the sign-up sheets, which have been tried before, will be made available.

One idea put forth was that each person on Parish Council make up a committee of one to be responsible for each aspect of running the church i.e., dinners, and entertaining priests. This idea was modified by adding that perhaps it should consist of one Parish Council member and 2 parish members.

The Parish Council will work on developing a mechanism for having parish dinners.

In response to an earlier question on the Diocesan assessment formula, it was explained that the \$54.00 per member charge includes 8 3/4% of plate collections, yougakin, baptisms, etc.

Last year the interest on the monies in the Diocesan Endowment Fund was 7 %.

The Diocesan Assembly will be held in NYC in 1998 at which time the 100th anniversary of the founding of Armenian Church in America will be celebrated. It would be appropriate to organize a bus trip to the celebration.

Hillard Rozen donated \$5,000 to our parish which will be used to establish the Hillard Rozen Fund in the eventuality that he might donate in the future. His generous gift was applauded.

VIII. Election of New Officers

Parish Council (Vote for 4)

Garabed Fattal - 28 votes  
Art Kachadourian - 27 votes  
Sonig Kradjian - 27 votes  
Gregg Sarkisian - 26 votes  
Michael Ketchoyian - 3 votes

Nominating Committee (Vote for 3)

Deran Kradjian - 28 votes  
Vivian George - 28 votes  
Jack Injajigian - 28 votes

Auditing Committee (Vote for 3)

Michael Ketchoyian - 28 votes  
Vahe Garabedian - 28 votes  
Deran Kradjian - 28 votes

There were no nominations from the floor for any of these committees.

The meeting was adjourned after the votes were counted.

Respectfully submitted,

*Grace S. Baradet*  
Grace S. Baradet  
Secretary Pro Tem