

MINUTES OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Friday, February 9, 1979

The invocation was given by The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian at 8:15 p.m.

Mr. Arthur Mardigian, Chairman of the Parish Council, cited Article 17 of the Bylaws of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and thereby declared that the requirements were met and the Parish Assembly was in order.

Mr. Mardigian reported that the Nominating Committee has nominated candidates for the positions of Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day as decided at last year's Assembly and that they will be voted upon by ballot. Mr. Mardigian read the bylaws amendment from the Minutes of the 76th Diocesan Assembly held in Detroit last May 1978. The amendment read, in part, that "...the Nominating Committee shall prepare lists of candidates double the number of vacancies for the election of the Parish Council Auditing Committee, Officers of the Annual Parish Assembly...." Mr. Mardigian advised that the motion carried, and since it was the second approval of the amendment, it automatically became part of the bylaws of the Armenian Church. He continued that the agenda of the Assembly was adjusted to allow for election of the Assembly officers first, followed by the election of the Parish Council, Auditor, Nominating Committee, and Diocesan Delegates.

Mr. Mardigian explained that the Chairman of the Day should run the meeting in a businesslike fashion. He continued that the Pastor and Parish Council welcome all questions from the Assembly, and that all questions directed to them would be answered. He asked that the Chairman of the Day refrain from answering questions, because the purpose of the Assembly is for members to ask what their Parish Council has done, and for the Parish Council, in turn, to answer those questions.

Mr. Richard Vahratian of the Nominating Committee was asked to present the candidates for the officers of the day.

Mr. Vahratian first identified the members of the 1978 Nominating Committee: Chairman, Simon Javizian; Alice Derderian; Sooren Gozmanian; Ashod Torosian; and Richard Vahratian. On Behalf of this committee, he expressed thanks to the following parishioners who provided assistance during the past months making the

tasks of the Nominating Committee easier to accomplish: Helen Armoudlian, Rose Boudakian, and Judy Hovnan for their secretarial assistance; Charlotte Boshnakian for her hall pictorial display; Arthur Barsamian for his photographs of the candidates; Gloria Mikaelian and her editorial staff for the Torch Bearer publications; cochairperson, Sue Najarian, and others for the February 4 Tea; the parishioners who donated for that Tea; and for the parishioners acting as ballot monitors and ballot counters during this Assembly. Mr. Vahratian then advised the Assembly that they would be voting to fill 20 positions: 1 Parish Assembly Chairman of the Day, 1 Parish Assembly Secretary of the Day, 5 Parish Council members, 7 Diocesan Delegates, 5 Nominating Committee members, and 1 auditor.

Mr. Vahratian cited the rules and regulations from the Bylaws of the Armenian Church concerning church membership and declared that all candidates meet the criteria for their respective nominations. He added that the candidates have been properly introduced to the parishioners by photo and brief biographic presentation as well as at a Tea held on February 4. Mr. Vahratian explained that he was acting on behalf of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Simon Javizian, and others; because they are candidates. Mr. Vahratian and Alice Derderian, with the assistance of two church auditors, were responsible for running the election. The third church auditor was also running for office and could not participate in the operation of the election.

Mr. Vahratian then explained the election rules and procedures to the Parish Assembly. Prior to the distribution of each ballot, the candidates were asked to approach the stage in order to be introduced, by name, to the parish. Mr. Vahratian explained that time would be allocated for floor nominations, and ballots would be distributed by the monitors.

Mr. Vahratian presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman of the Day and Assembly Secretary of the Day:

Chairman of the Day

Jack Margosian
Dennis Papazian

Secretary of the Day

Judy Hovnan
Louise Kushigian

Nominations were requested from the floor for the position of Chairman of the Day. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations, and the motion passed.

Nominations were then entertained from the floor for the position of Secretary of the Day. A motion was made to close the nominations, which was seconded; and the motion passed.

Ballots were then distributed to the eligible parishioners and collected. The ballots were then counted.

Candidates were then presented by Mr. Vahratian for the Nominating Committee for 1980, five to be elected:

Guy Amboian	Adam Kazarian
Richard Baylerian	John Nagohosian
Mary Cholmakjian	Walter Negosian
Rose Hanesian	John Noraian
Jack Kazanjian	Margie Simonian

Nominations from the floor were requested. No further nominations were offered; therefore, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed.

Mr. Vahratian presented the candidates for Diocesan Delegates, seven to be elected:

Yervant Azadian	Edward Korkoian (incumbent)
Martin Cholakian	Arthur Mardigian
Sooren Gozmanian (incumbent)	Lucy Merzian
Mihran Hoplamazian (incumbent)	Sirvart Mezian
Armen Hovnanian	Garbis Ohanian
Paul Hovsepian	Anoush Papelian (not present)
Simon Javizian (incumbent)	Harry Terzian

Mr. Vahratian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed.

Mr. Vahratian presented Parish Council candidates, five to be elected:

Sooren Aprahamian (incumbent)	Norman Messelian (not present)
George Arevigian	Harout Sanjian
Michael Armoudlian	Andrew Tarpinian
Paul Jingoian	Ashod Torosian
Edward Karamanian	Leo Zamanigian (incumbent)
Souren Keoleian (incumbent)	

Nominations were requested from the floor. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion carried.

Candidates were presented for the Auditing Committee, one to be elected:

John Bahadurian

Harry Mardirosian

Nominations were then requested from the floor. There being no further candidates, a motion was made to close the nominations, which was seconded. Motion passed.

Ballots were distributed to all eligible parishioners and collected. The ballots were then counted.

The results of the first ballots were announced. Dr. Dennis Papazian was elected Assembly Chairman of the Day, and Miss Judy Hovnan was elected Assembly Secretary of the Day.

Dr. Papazian addressed the Assembly stating that we are lucky in this parish to have so many people of quality and felt that both he and Mr. Jack Margosian were qualified as well as willing to assume the role of Chairman of the Day. He continued that it did not matter who was elected for this position as both he and Mr. Margosian were willing and able to serve, but he expressed his appreciation that the parishioners have shown their confidence in him. He commended Mr. Simon Javizian, Mr. Richard Vahratian, and the Nominating Committee for the most professional way in which the nominations and the election were handled this year. He felt they set an example which would be followed in the future.

Dr. Papazian then proceeded to the first item of business, that being the approval of the Minutes of the 1978 Annual Parish Assembly. Dr. Papazian asked that someone move to adopt the Minutes. A motion to that effect was made and seconded. Dr. Papazian asked for discussion regarding the Minutes. There being no discussion, a vote was taken; and the Minutes were approved as presented.

Dr. Papazian asked for questions regarding the 1978 Annual Report. He read through each title, allowing for comments or questions from the Assembly on any one or all of them.

A question was raised regarding the Senior Citizens Day Report and the amount of money being paid for the luncheon. Mr. Leo Zamanigian gave a short resume on this function, stating that it is held on the second Tuesday of each month. He explained that the charges for the dinner are \$1.00 for all Armenians and \$4.00 for all non-Armenians. He said that the church subsidy in 1978 was \$2,385 and that the budget for 1979 allows for \$4,000. The purpose of the dinners is to entertain senior citizens with a speaker each month and to give them a warm meal at a reasonable price. He continued that it is up to this body, the

Parish Assembly, to increase the charge or leave it as it is. A motion was made that \$2.00 be charged for each member. Dr. Papazian advised that a motion of this type should be brought up under New Business, and that at this time, questions were being answered regarding the reports.

Mr. John Bahadurian asked for an explanation of the specifics regarding the Armenian Veterans Building. Mr. Arthur Mardigian explained that the agreement between the church and the Veterans was reached by committees from the respective parties. The primary purpose of the acquisition of the Veterans Building was to provide for more expanded senior citizens programs and a place for youth activities and athletics. In terms of money, there is no money transferred. The title, however, will be transferred to the church. The church's obligation is to provide upkeep. There will be no liability to the Veterans. The primary benefit to the Veterans is that they will continue to use the building for their activities on Monday evenings (the clubhouse only). The remainder of the building will be used by the youth for their activities. On four other occasions during the year, the Veterans will be allowed use of the entire building, without charge.

It was also stated that there will be no change in the name of the building.

Mr. Paul Bazigian asked that parishioners use the microphones located in the hall so that everyone would be able to hear their questions.

Mr. Hrant Aginian inquired about the mortgages for homes which was mentioned in the booklet. Dr. Papazian advised that this would be brought up under New Business in a Neighborhood Development Report.

Dr. Papazian then went through the Statistical Reports for Church Auxiliaries, asking for comments or questions from the Assembly.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to accept the 1978 Annual Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Souren Keolelian presented the 1979 Budget for the approval of the Assembly. He stated that the difference in the budget between 1978 and 1979 is approximately \$81,000, or an increase of about 25 percent. He said that the 1979 budget was \$440,000. The acquisition of the Veterans Building will add approximately \$32,000 in expenses. In addition, it is expected that the payroll will

increase by about 7 percent: \$4,000 for senior citizens; an increase for the proposed operations manager of \$2,500; contingency of \$2,000. He explained that the increase of \$81,000 proposed over 1978, is made up of 5 items. The balance of the \$81,000, or \$16,000, is about a 6 percent across-the-board increase between 1978 and 1979, which Mr. Keoleian felt to be respectable in terms of what the inflationary considerations are these days. It is expected that the additional \$16,000 will be offset with pledges. Mr. Keoleian said that we foresee for 1979, an increase in our Bazaar income from a level of \$25,000 to \$45,000. To accommodate the additional expenses and the liabilities that we expect to incur in 1979, we intend to increase our interest income from a level proposed in 1978 of \$7,500 to an increase of \$20,000. Mr. Keoleian noted that we have a transfer of \$61,000 from the various auxiliary organizations of the church. We additionally expect to increase our pledges in 1979 about 16 percent from \$109,000 to \$125,000. These four items: \$16,000 in pledges; \$20,000 income from the Bazaar; \$25,000 increase in building operation; and the \$13,000 increase in interest income total approximately \$74,000 of the \$81,000 we are looking for. The balance is spread out over miscellaneous items in terms of trying to reach the \$81,000. He further noted that 1978 was a very good year for our church. We realized an actual revenue of \$510,725, which is an increase of more than \$151,000 over the 1978 budgeted levels.

The Bazaar activity did an outstanding job for 1978. Between actual (\$56,000) and budget (\$25,000), there was a \$31,000 spread; and Mr. Jack Kazanjian should be complimented for that effort. Additionally, the building operation, keeping in mind that we budgeted \$100,000 for 1978, came at \$136,300; and Armen Hovnanian and his group will have to be commended for that (approximately a 36 percent increase over 1978). In addition, we had for 1978, over the budget, an increase of \$12,000 in interest income. That was as a result of the judicious options that were available to us in terms of investing our money. Rather than leaving it in ordinary savings, a great deal of effort was spent in making those funds work for us as effectively as possible, specifically by putting them in certificates of deposit and money-market certificates, getting upwards of 10 percent on our money. Also in 1978, each parishioner was asked to provide an increase in their dues as a special pledge. That obligation was fulfilled, and approximately \$10,000 was accommodated for 1978 for which we had not budgeted. Adding the revenue from the Bazaar, the contributions from the church auxiliaries, building operation, interest income, and special pledge income, that would accommodate about \$140,000 of the \$151,000 that we realized between the actual and the budgeted. The balance was spread over miscellaneous items. Mr. Keoleian concluded that we

meet the budget in terms of actual expenses for 1978. Specifically, the budget was \$359,000. We had actual expenses of \$342,000, which means that we beat the budget by \$17,000.

Mr. Keoleian contended that we did an outstanding job in terms of generating revenue within the church and in trying to maintain a reasonable budget level concerning action versus budget. A review of the booklet will indicate how that job was accomplished for 1978. First of all, an operations manager was not hired, saving \$22,000. Also, as a result of not having an Assistant Pastor, we did not spend an additional \$18,000. Our heat, light and water was overbudgeted, saving approximately \$8,000. It was felt the resources of energy would go beyond reach, and we accommodated that by providing a high figure in the budget. Additionally, the Diocesan assessment was \$3,100 less than budgeted. A review of the 1978 budget versus the 1978 actual will show that there are about nine or ten items, accommodating about \$17,000. So, on balance, expenses were kept within the budgeted level, and at the same time, everything possible was done to generate revenue to exceed the budgeted level.

Mr. Keoleian further advised that a review of the balance sheet will reveal that between 1977 and 1978 our assets increased over \$200,000. We virtually increased the level by 60 percent from a total of assets from 1977 from \$337,000 to \$540,000. The booklet reveals that we have savings accounts accommodating almost \$400,000, on which we are collecting between 7 and 10 percent interest. In 1977, we had savings accounts of \$231,000, an increase in savings of almost \$160,000 between 1977 and 1978. Our net worth increased considerably for 1978.

Following the report given by Mr. Keoleian, questions were entertained from the Assembly. At this time, a motion was made to adopt the budget for 1979; and the motion was seconded.

Mr. Sooren Gozmanian asked where the additional \$200,000 came from in the savings account. Mr. Keoleian reiterated that \$61,000 came from church auxiliaries, which was simply transferred from their accounts into large investments in order to realize a maximum return; and the money generated from the building operation as well as from the Bazaar was not spent to operate the building. The money was merely transferred from the actual into our savings accounts. By adding up the auxiliary transfer, Bazaar income, building operation, and interest income that we earned over 1977, that accommodated the \$200,000 between 1977 and 1978.

Mr. Hrant Aginian referred to the difference between the \$125,000 expected this year and the \$115,000 received last year in pledges and asked where the additional \$10,000 is coming from. Mr. Keoleian advised that a new membership drive is anticipated for 1979 to accommodate that difference.

Mr. Aginian then mentioned the money collected for In-Lieu-of-Christmas-Cards and the fact that he has never seen a report on that. He explained that he would like to know the amount collected and the amount spent and not specifically who received it. Mr. Keoleian explained that the money is collected strictly for social concerns and that none of it is used for operating funds. Mr. Aginian continued that he realizes that; however, he wanted a dollar figure of the amount in the fund and the amount spent.

Mr. Keoleian explained that the Social Concerns Fund is administered by Fr. Paren and turned the floor over to him. Fr. Paren then explained that on the average, the amount received annually is \$2,500. This is received from parishioners and is distributed to those in need in this area. Fr. Paren agreed that the figure was not mentioned and stated that it would be included in the report next year.

Mr. Albert Serrajian said that he noticed in the budget report that \$32,000 was allocated for expenses. He said that the Veterans Building has been operating on between \$15,000 and \$18,000 annually and asked who made out the present budget. Mr. Mardigian explained that the difference in money between their operating expenses and what we feel we would need is that whenever the building is open, there will be a custodian on duty. The building will be under constant supervision, which explains the monetary difference.

Mr. Bobby Simonian inquired about the Athletics and Youth Director and mentioned the increase in the budget of \$5,000. Mr. Mardigian said a committee is presently working on this, and that we are anticipating a part-time Athletics and Youth Director.

Mr. Jack Boladian asked what happened to the \$41,000 from the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Fund and how it is used. Mr. Mardigian replied that the balance sheet indicates that of the \$41,000 received, \$20,500 goes into the church reserve building maintenance fund and the remaining \$20,500 is due to the Armenian Apostolic Society. He added that this is the sole source of income of the Armenian Apostolic Society, and our agreement is that we share the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Funds.

Mrs. Margaret Gozmanian said the Parish Assembly agreed to hire a buildings manager a few years ago, yet we still don't have one. She asked why it is taking so long. Mr. Souren Keolelian answered that we have had a number of applications for this position, but in our best judgement, the qualifications did not fulfill our needs. As a result, we are continuing to look for an operations manager.

Mr. Harry Terzian asked for an explanation of the \$16,000 for equipment purchases. Mr. Terzian also inquired about the line item for "fixture" maintenance and asked if "fixture" was possibly a typographical error. It was confirmed that the word "fixture" should have been "future". Mr. Richard Simonian also explained that the line item for \$10,000 was there to accommodate the special 1978 pledge increase that was the resolution of last year's Assembly. We had picked up the \$10,000 in income and had to offset it with this provision which goes into the reserve on the balance sheet. He noted that the 1978 pledge increase is an addition to the building maintenance reserve this year.

Mr. Souren Keolelian replied to Mr. Terzian's question of the \$16,000 figure. Mr. Keolelian explained that last year a 1978 Mercury was purchased for Hayr Paren to replace the 1974 Mercury which had 80,000 miles on it. He further replied that this item accommodated about \$7,000 and advised that the purchase was made by Mr. Terzian.

Mr. Keolelian added that we also purchased about \$2,500 worth of dishes for the building complex. These two items alone make up approximately \$10,000 of that amount. Dr. Papazian interjected that the expenditures were open for inspection after the meeting.

Mr. Martin Cholakian questioned Exhibit C, the Operating Fund--Building Operation regarding the net revenues. Mr. Richard Simonian said net revenues reflects gross profit from hall operations. He said it does not reflect a lot of overhead that is charged into our general operation budget, and we just do not have that sophisticated an accounting system here.

For example, he pointed out that on Page 33 there is Building Supplies and Expense, Kitchen Supplies, Utilities, the custodian, etc., and no attempt was made to allocate those. He said it is a rather difficult job to get these numbers down to

the final, and he expressed the hope that someday we would have an accounting system that would do that. He emphasized that the net revenues, is simply the revenues we obtain from the various profit-making functions in this hall plus the direct expenses applicable to those functions and nothing more than that. He said that that would also be true for the Bingo.

Mrs. Margaret Gozmanian asked if the caterers help pay for the overhead of the kitchen equipment and utilities. Mr. Armen Hovnanian replied that they do not. He said we have negotiated the price with the caterers. He advised that the caterer here works for us and we set the prices. Mr. Hovnanian explained that if we allow the caterer to tack on the kickback to us, that would be feasible; but we do not use that system. The caterers do, however, pay for linen usage in the kitchen, and our prime caterer does pay 50 percent of the advertising expenses we incur.

Mrs. Gozmanian asked if we could bring in any caterer that we want. Mr. Hovnanian answered that we cannot bring a caterer in without special approval of the Parish Council. A number of years ago, after a study by a committee comprised of Parish Council members and some parishioners, it was determined that caterers would be totally controlled by the Parish Council. Therefore, outside caterers could not come in without Parish Council approval. He remarked that this has been the past history. He advised that a number of liabilities are involved which the caterer has to cover such as insurance, personnel, etc. As for food costs, we do not get involved in that expenditure; that is controlled through the caterer. However, Mr. Hovnanian explained that someone coming in off the street could not give us the above assurances.

Mr. Jack Kezelian asked how many caterers we have. Mr. Hovnanian answered that we have four as of today. Mr. Kezelian then asked for the names of these caterers. Mr. Hovnanian stated that the official caterer in the hall is the Golden Touch (George Mashlakjian and Edward Jizmejian); Marchiori is the caterer for business that he brings in; Annie Matori is an approved caterer also; and under certain circumstances, Mr. Gary Reizian has been approved as a caterer. Mr. Jack Kezelian asked what was meant by certain circumstances. Mr. Hovnanian said that basically Mr. Reizian is approved on the same basis as Marchiori, that is, he is allowed to take available dates in the hall for business that he brings in from the outside.

Mrs. Gozmanian advised that for the last three or four years, parishioners who work in the kitchen have complained about the condition of the dishes, etc. The silverware and dishes are left dirty, and the women have to wash them before they can be used. She continued that each caretaker blames the next for this situation. Mr. Hovnanian agreed that this situation does, in fact, exist, and added that the Building Committee, Mrs. Anoush Papelian and Mr. Rick Apkarian, in particular, have spent a number of hours attempting to improve the situation. However, Mr. Hovnanian said we have problems with equipment and people. He said a study has been done, and advised that many of the women who work in the kitchen are on the committee. He expressed the hope that in the new year some of the things we have not been happy with this past year will be corrected.

Dr. Papazian asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing no questions, the motion made earlier to adopt the budget for 1979 and the second to that motion were entertained. The budget was approved by the Parish Assembly in the amount of \$440,167.

Under the topic of New Business, there was a proposed amendment to the Bylaws of the Armenian Church of America. It was moved that Article 61 of the Diocesan Bylaws be amended to add an Item M following the present Item L. The proposed amendment read as follows:

"Parishes which fail to pay their previous year's Diocesan Assessment automatically forfeit their right to vote at the Diocesan Assemblies. Such parishes may reinstate this right by payment of their assessments in arrears of the prior years at the Diocesan Assembly."

Mr. Richard Norsigian gave some background on this proposed amendment. He said that in prior years and particularly this past year, a number of parishes have not paid their past dues making it difficult for the Diocese to operate for the year. It was felt that the proposed amendment follows the logic of Article 8 of the bylaws, in any parish where a member does not pay his dues cannot vote in the Parish Assembly. Therefore, at the Diocesan level, a parish which fails to pay its assessment should not be allowed to vote in the Diocesan Assembly.

✓ Dr. Papazian reread the proposed amendment to the Assembly and reiterated its application to Article 8 of the Bylaws.

Mr. Ara Haig asked if this applied to clergymen. Fr. Paren said it was his interpretation that since they, too, are delegates, it would apply to them.

Mr. Haig asked how many churches are involved in not paying their assessments and how many clergymen are involved. Dr. Papazian remarked that from his recollection, they are few in number, but there have been as many as five or six at a time.

It was noted that parish dues in arrears each month range from \$75,000 to \$100,000, causing a serious problem in meeting the Diocesan budget.

A question was raised by Mr. Simon Javizian that if a parish is in arrears more than one year, will this provide for them to pay up all of its arrears or just for the past year. Dr. Papazian agreed that the proposal was not completely clear but added that the interpretation seemed to imply all previous years. He said that an editing committee should change the amendment after the meeting.

Inquiry was made regarding a relief mechanism for a parish in a hardship situation. Dr. Papazian said it does not appear that such relief exists, but it should be presumed that those who set the dues would realize this.

Mr. John Bahadurian asked if denying a vote to a parish would not cause a divisiveness within the Diocese, making people unhappy and quarrelsome. Further, assuming that we did not pay our Diocesan dues, would this mean everyone here would suffer even though we all paid our dues. Fr. Paren answered Mr. Bahadurian's question that there might be some divisiveness within the Diocese but mentioned that there is an existing condition affecting the Primate, the Diocesan Council, and the Director of the Diocese. He stated that there was at least one occasion where the Edison Company in New York went to the Diocese with the threat of turning off their power. Also, as a general comment about parishes which do not pay dues and the affect on their delegates, he answered that, unfortunately, many times Parish Councils make decisions for their parishes without considering the parish and that, hopefully, this kind of Article will make the delegates and the parishes aware of the action of the Parish Councils.

Mr. Edward Korkoian commented, as a member of the Diocesan Council, that there are several large parishes in this Diocese, but because of the stubbornness of some of their members who refuse to pay,

the problem exists. He emphasized that if the situation arose in this parish, the parishioners here should get up and do something.

Mr. Kegham Agegian asked how much St. John's pays in dues to the Diocese each year. The Assembly was advised that our Diocesan assessment for 1979 is \$36,000. We will additionally pay a special Diocesan assessment for the training of clergymen, in the amount of \$3,590, which will make the total approximately \$40,000. The Assembly was proudly advised that our parish paid its entire assessment by June of last year.

Mr. Artin Artinian asked for the reason parishes do not pay their assessments. Dr. Papazian said they don't like their assessment, they don't like the way things are running, and they don't carry the vote at the meeting; therefore, out of spite, they don't pay their dues.

Mr. Artinian explained that he just wanted to clarify that it was not some other problem aside from the fact that they won't pay.

A question was asked if the parishes have a right to decide on assessments. Dr. Papazian explained that it is based on the number of people and a number of other things.

A motion was then made to accept the proposed bylaws amendment. The motion was seconded and passed.

With regard to senior citizens luncheons, which was mentioned earlier, Dr. Papazian commented that it is his understanding that all such luncheons for Armenians are subsidized. It was proposed that those Armenians who are senior citizens but are not paid members of the church, be charged more than \$1.00.

Mrs. Araxie Hoogasian made a motion to establish the following luncheon prices: \$2.00 for Armenians who are members of the parish; \$3.00 for Armenians who are nonmembers of the parish; and \$4.00 for non-Armenians. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Korkoian stated that while he appreciates the thoughtfulness behind the motion, he does not like discrimination between members and nonmembers. He feels senior citizens are being brought together and should be treated equally.

Mr. Harry Zartarian agreed with Mr. Korkoian. He said he sends about 10 senior citizens here every month, most of whom cannot even afford \$1.00.

A proposed amendment was made that the cost of the luncheon be \$2.00 for everyone.

Dr. Papazian interjected, in order to save parliamentary law, and asked if the general consensus of the parish was for a \$1.00 luncheon or a \$2.00 luncheon. Due to further discussion by the Assembly, Dr. Papazian asked for a vote on the original motion. The motion failed; the luncheon will remain at \$1.00.

Mr. John Semizian asked if we will be getting an Assistant Pastor next year. Mr. Mardigian answered that we have been without the services of an Assistant Pastor for over a year. We have approached the Primate and asked for an Assistant Pastor. Candidates have been interviewed but we are waiting for additional names from the Primate. Mr. Mardigian advised that we wanted to interview every possible candidate the Primate has to offer. Also, he reported to the Assembly that we will very shortly be having the addition of a Student Priest, The Very Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian, a recent graduate of the seminary in Jerusalem. He should be here within a month, his primary function will be to study.

Mr. Aginian asked about the property we have had for 30 years which is located in Sterling Heights, and he asked why we are keeping it. Mr. Jamian answered that he has checked around and that it is within our best interests to keep it at the present time. Mr. Aginian asked what the appraised valuation is. The answer was under \$1,000 in taxes. Mr. Aginian asked again about the appraised valuation. He added that he does not believe that it is that valuable. Mr. Vahe Papelian commented that about three or four years ago, it had increased to \$25,000. Dr. Papazian said it was approximately \$36,000 at the present time.

Mr. Kegham Agegian mentioned a letter he wrote to the Parish Council a few years ago suggesting that we have a night watchman, but that he has never received a reply. Mr. Mardigian, who has been on the Parish Council for six years, answered that he does not recall such a letter. Mr. Mardigian did, however, assure Mr. Agegian that we do have full security in the building.

Mr. Masa Carman asked why ballots cannot be handed to parishioners at the time they are verified to be eligible voters. Dr. Papazian answered that this procedure was confusing in the past.

Mr. Javizian suggested that for the Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day only a show of hands be used in order to save time, with the candidates being absent from the room. It was pointed out that

this suggestion is in violation of the bylaws. Dr. Papazian added that we used to violate the bylaws, because no one knew who the candidates were.

Mr. Archie Yeghissian said that Mr. Mardigian mentioned that we expect to have a Student Priest in our parish, and he was interested in knowing his specific functions. Fr. Paren answered that the Student Priest will not be assigned as a full time priest of the parish but that his main pursuit will be to further his education; and as his time allows, he will assist the Pastor and other members of the pastoral staff.

Dr. Papazian moved to another item on which the Parish Council wanted to report--that of Neighborhood Development. Mr. Souren Keolelian reported on this program, which was initiated at the last Assembly. He recalled that \$50,000 was allocated for parishioners to assure that the neighborhood is populated by Armenians. At that time, the purpose was to provide these funds to parishioners as part of their downpayment. Mr. Keolelian advised the Assembly that because of the number of interested parties, the original authorization of \$50,000 was increased to \$100,000. Of that \$100,000, he reported that three parishioners sought funds in the following way: One requested \$10,000; another requested \$7,500; and the third requested \$10,000. That meant we had \$27,500 allocated to these families to purchase homes in the Magnolia subdivision. Additionally, we had a chance to purchase a home for \$60,000 near the church. At the time, we allocated \$30,000 to assume the mortgage. By adding \$60,000 plus \$27,000, the sum of which is \$87,500, we are left with a balance of \$12,500. Mr. Keolelian continued that through December 31, 1978, one parishioner who requested \$10,000, has already repaid \$3,000; and subsequent to January 1979; another parishioner repaid \$2,000. Further, within the next several weeks, we will be in a position to sell the home on Winora and receive \$64,500. Currently, \$325.00 is being paid monthly by a parishioner who is renting the home.

A question was asked about the architectural designs on the walls at the back of the hall. Mr. Mardigian explained that a brief explanation will be given at this point, for information only, and that in the future, a special parish assembly will be held dealing with that topic. Mr. Mardigian then read the report of the architect, Mr. Pilafian.

Mr. Jack Kezelian asked about the time frame involved in this renovation. Dr. Papazian said this should be brought up at the special parish assembly.

A question was raised with regard to the housing in the Magnolia subdivision. The question was why the church doesn't encourage parishioners to buy on the other side of the Southfield expressway.

A motion was made that Parish Council check out the homes on the other side of the Southfield expressway. There was no second to the motion. The motion was dismissed.

Mrs. Ann Tarpinian asked why absentee ballots cannot be provided for the sick or others unable to attend the Assembly. Dr. Papazian said the bylaws prohibit it and that because nominations are made from the floor, it would not be possible.

A question was asked about the building of senior citizens housing on our property. Dr. Papazian said the Parish Council is looking into this, and it will be recommended at the time their report is complete.

Mr. Terzian wanted to thank all Parish Council members for the excellent job they did and suggested that the parish commend them.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kaloustian mentioned colored children have been playing on the church grounds, and asked what was being done about this situation. Dr. Papazian said the situation is being handled.

A question was raised as to whether there is a provision for a youth activities room specifically for young people in the renovation. It was reported that this was incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Edward Korkoian asked for the floor and commented on the Armenian American Veterans Building. He feels it was the most useful building in the community as it provided for both senior citizens and youth activities.

Mr. Sooren Gozmanian expressed his thanks to the Chairman and the Secretary of the Day on behalf of the parish.

Dr. Papazian then asked Fr. Paren for his closing remarks, and announced that at the end of Fr. Paren's remarks, the election results will be given. Fr. Paren stated that he reserved his thanks and congratulations to various individuals pending the results of the elections.

Fr. Paren first announced that we will have a Guest Celebrant and Preacher this Sunday, The Most Rev. Archbishop Shahe Ajemian, from Jerusalem, (February 11, 1979) and expressed the hope that we will have at least the amount of parishioners in church as attended the Assembly.

Fr. Paren then discussed an item covered both under Parish Council and in the Pastor's Report regarding a membership drive. Last year, under the chairmanship of Rick Apkarian, a committee was set up for a membership drive. The committee finished its work about August. They put together lists from various sources available to the church for the membership drive; however, it was late in the year to start a new membership drive so it was decided to wait until the beginning of this year. Sometime in March, therefore, a new membership drive will be started. Fr. Paren said he hopes that no one here thinks that the Pastor and Parish Council alone can recruit new members. Particularly those who have children or grandchildren of age, or other relatives, should cooperate in order to have a successful membership drive. He stated that he hoped that without offending anyone he can announce that younger members will be sought. Recommendations for new members will be welcomed. The church office should be given these names. He further stated that so far, we have 600 such names. All of them, and more, will hopefully become members.

Fr. Paren then referred to a subject he preferred not to discuss, with regard to a privilege being misused. He said that he himself and others have said many times, everyone who has read last year's minutes will recall this, that no senior member of the community will be denied the opportunity to continue their membership simply because they do not meet the minimum pledge. Fr. Paren said it is no secret that there are some who pay less than the minimum pledge. He said about 250 units were reported in the Annual Report who pay under the minimum, but added that his point was not those who pay under the minimum. It is more than that. Presently, 110 single parishioners and 75 couples (a total of 185) pay less than \$45.00 annually. The reason he picked the \$45.00 figure is that it costs the church \$45.00 to report each member to the Diocese. Therefore, Fr. Paren asked that those who pay less than the minimum to bear in mind, and that if they could pay \$45.00, it would be appreciated. He hoped that to continue the membership of these members will not cost the church out-of-pocket monies. He also mentioned that it is a privilege that the Parish Assembly and the Parish Council are giving to those members who are unable because of advanced age and limited income to pay less than the minimum pledge, and he asked that no one abuse this privilege.

Another area Fr. Paren discussed was our church organizations. Without wanting to single them out, he mentioned that they are in need of younger members. New blood is needed in all these organizations. He expressed assurance that everyone knows at least one person who can be convinced to become active in whatever their preference is within the church in order for them to be able to use their talents because this church needs all of our talents and the talents of those who stay away. Our church needs our talents in the Choir, the Women's Guild, Ladies' Auxiliary, Men's Society, and other organizations of our church as well. Probably each one knows of someone who can become active in at least one aspect within the life of our church. Fr. Paren said the church needs the intercession and coaxing of everyone. He closed his remarks by thanking everyone for attending and participating in the Assembly.

Mr. Mihran Hoplamazian asked that an announcement be made with regard to the 10th Anniversary Banquet to be held this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. There are still a few tickets left.

A question was raised about the financial statements of the auxiliaries. Dr. Papazian noted the oversight and asked if there were any questions relating to these. There were none.

Another announcement was the St. John's Annual Blood Bank Drive, which will be on Monday, April 23, 1979.

Mr. Aginian mentioned April 24, and asked with regard to an amount of money collected on the 50th anniversary. He asked what happened to that money. Fr. Paren announced that the money was turned over to the Apostolic Society. They have considered various plans for a monument but have not yet been able to choose an appropriate plan for a sculpture.

Mr. Papelian mentioned that in 1981 we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of our building.

Mr. Albert Serrajian mentioned that he added all the balances of the auxiliary units of the church which amounted to \$35,000. He asked if this money could be pooled together with each group keeping its own records and drawing against it. Dr. Papazian said the cost of administering the program would exceed the cost of the profit they would be gaining.

Due to the extremely large number of eligible voters who attended the Assembly, a delay was experienced by the Nominating Committee

in counting the ballots. As a result, the Chairman of the Day suggested the option of closing the meeting with the understanding that the election results will be read into the Minutes.

Mr. Terzian suggested that we determine how long the Committee will need before we adjourn.

A comment was made regarding the Bingo Committee and the fantastic job they have done. The Assembly recognized the Committee's service by applause.

Mr. Martin Cholakian said that the two members of the Parish Council who have served for 6 years, Mrs. Anoush Papelian and Mr. Arthur Mardigian, should be commended for the fine job they have done.

Mr. Archie Yeghissian suggested that ballots be given to the eligible voters at the time they are confirmed paid members in order to vote for the Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day. He felt it would save about 40 minutes during the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. The Chairman of the Day recommended that we go through the adjournment procedures with the understanding that the election results be incorporated into the Minutes in their proper place.

Fr. Paren then thanked the Chairman and the Secretary of the Day for the fine job they did today. In addition he expressed thanks to every candidate who accepted the nominations for the various positions within the church. He also thanked the outgoing members of Parish Council, Mr. Arthur Mardigian and Mrs. Anoush Papelian, and Diocesan Delegates, Ara Haig, Martin Apkarian, and Daniel Shahan. Fr. Paren also thanked all the members of the various standing committees of this church for their unselfish sacrifices rendered in the past and thanked every parishioner who has in various circumstances assumed responsibilities on behalf of his church and the Parish Council.

The Assembly was adjourned at 11:35 p.m, with the benediction offered by Fr. Paren.

Annual Parish Assembly
Friday, February 9, 1979
Page 20

Mr. Simon Javizian announced that 453 ballots were case during the election. He assured the Assembly of the accuracy of the count as he had a full team count them three times. Mr. Javizian commented on the fact that this year we had a record vote and thanked the following individuals who helped throughout the election procedure: Ann Laktzian, Harry Najarian, Alice Proodian, Gary Ezmerlian, Jerome Swidersky, Dave Darakjian, Jerry Dayinian, Estelle Barsamian, Margaret Derderian, Harry Derderian (not husband and wife), Jack Karakashian, Arthur Apkarian, Harry Proodian, Ron Godoshian, Richard Torigian, Jackie Melkonian, and Charlotte Boshnakian and special thanks to two Nominating Committee people who had the entire election on their shoulders, Alice Derderian and Richard Vahratian and the auditors, Dick Simonian and Elizabeth Bozigian.

Mr. Javizian announced that the following were elected as Parish Council members, in alphabetical order:

Sooren Aprahamian
Michael Armoudlian
Souren Keoleian
Ashod Torosian
Leo Zamanigian

The following were elected as Diocesan Delegates, in alphabetical order:

Martin Cholakian
Sooren Gozmanian
Mihran Hoplamazian
Simon Javizian
Edward Korkoian
Arthur Mardigian
Harry Terzian

Mr. Javizian also announced that the following were the alternate delegates according to the number of votes received:

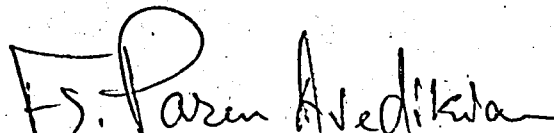
Paul Hovsepian
Anoush Papelian
Sirvart Mezian
Lucy Merzian
Yervant Azadian
Armen Hovnanian
Garbis Ohanian

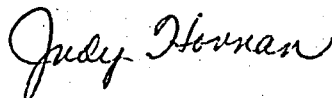
Annual Parish Assembly
Friday, February 9, 1979
Page 21

Mr. Javizian announced that the following had been elected as the members of the Nominating Committee, in alphabetical order:

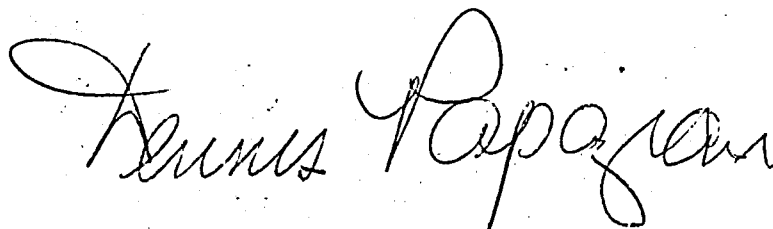
Guy Amboian
Richard Baylerian
Rose Hanesian
Jack Kazanjian
Margie Simonian

Mr. Javizian announced that the auditor elected to the Auditing Committee was John Bahadurian.


Father Paren Avedikian



Judy K. Hovnan
Secretary



Dennis Papazian
Chairman