

MINUTES OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
Friday, February 27, 1981

The meeting was called to order by Parish Council Chairman Rick Apkarian at 8:20 p.m. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian offered the prayer of Invocation. Mr. Apkarian announced that in accordance with Article 17 of the By-Laws, the Assembly was in order.

The Nominating Committee was asked to present the candidates for Assembly Officers. Mr. John Semizian, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary:

Assembly Chairman

Martin Cholakian
George Cross

Assembly Secretary

Ann Laktzian
Ida Varadian

Mr. Apkarian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none it was moved and seconded to close nominations. By show of hands the Assembly closed nominations.

Again this year the ballots would be counted by computer. John Semizian explained how the ballots were to be marked properly. Ballots for Assembly Officers were distributed, voted upon and collected by the monitors.

Haic Korkoian, Nominating Committee Chairman, thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee for their fine assistance. He also expressed his appreciation to the ladies responsible for the Candidates' Tea on February 15, he thanked the parishioners who donated goods, and he also thanked the ballot monitors, ballot counters and the Auditors. A very special thank you was expressed to Carl Varadian and Dean Zaven Margosian of Lawrence Institute of Technology for their efforts in obtaining the computer.

Mr. Korkoian then presented the candidates for Parish Council; five to be elected:

Souren Aprahamian
Hagop Asadurian
Stephen A. Dakhlian
Arthur S. Mardigian
Michael Mousigian

Anne Noraian
Sarkis Samarian
Harout Sanjian
Ashod Torosian
Leo Zamanigian

Mr. R. Apkarian asked for nominations from the floor; there were none. It was moved, seconded and passed to close the nominations.

Mr. H. Korkoian presented the candidates for the Nominating Committee; five to be elected:

Artin Artinian
Ardavazt N. Ekizian
Alice Haig
Edward S. Jamian
Richard Norsigian

Dr. Dennis Papazian
Albert Sarkisian
Richard Vahratian
Carl Varadian
Harry Zartarian

Mr. R. Apkarian again asked for nominations from the floor for Nominating Committee. There were none. It was moved, seconded and passed to close the nominations.

Mr. Martin Manoogian was presented as the only candidate for Auditor. Mr. Apkarian asked for nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded, and passed to close nominations. It was moved to declare Mr. Manoogian elected by acclamation.

Ballots for Parish Council and Nominating Committee were distributed to eligible parishioners and then collected by the monitors.

Mr. R. Apkarian asked for a recess while the ballots for the Officers of the Assembly were being counted.

Mr. John Semizian announced the election of George Cross for Assembly Chairman and Ann Laktzian as Assembly Secretary. The officers of the day assumed their positions at the dais.

Chairman George Cross expressed appreciation to the parishioners for their confidence shown by electing him and congratulated Mrs. Ann Laktzian for her election. He then asked if Mr. Martin Cholakian and Mrs. Ida Varadian would be kind enough to assist during the Assembly.

The chair asked for the approval of the 1980 Annual Parish Assembly minutes. A motion was made to do so, seconded, discussion called for, voted upon and passed.

The chair announced that reports of the 1980 Annual Report would not be read since members had received copies in the mail. He opened the floor to any questions concerning the reports and asked that questions be brief if possible.

Since there were no questions, a motion was made to accept the reports as published. It was seconded, discussion called for, voted upon and passed.

The chair stated the next order of business would be the financial reports, beginning on page 29 through the end of the Annual Report.

Albert Mardirosian asked a question regarding the "In Lieu of Flowers" total. Martin Manoogian complained he was the executor of an estate and turned over to the church \$5,000 to the Library Fund and \$2,000 for the Memorial Fund and was unable to locate it on the statement. Harry Zartarian asked a question about the Sterling Heights land. Treasurer Souren Keoleian responded satisfactorily to each parishioner's question.

The chair announced that at this time he would invite Mr. Souren Keoleian the Treasurer of the Parish Council to give a highlight of the Annual Statement and the 1981 Budget.

Mr. S. Keoleian came up to the dais and did indeed go through the whole report, referring to pages and responding to all questions.

At this point Mr. Harry Terzian commended the present Council for the outstanding job they have done in handling the financial affairs of the Church.

Arthur Mardigian, referring to Senior Citizens Luncheon, page 31, \$4,000 budget for a once-a-month function with \$1.00 fee for luncheon, made a motion that it be increased to two luncheons monthly which would increase the budgeted \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Considerable discussion followed with an amendment to the motion concerning whether the luncheons should be restricted to members of St. John's who are senior citizens or open to all senior citizen Armenians.

The motion was carried as amended which was "to amend the budget to raise it from \$4,000 to \$8,000, to have two luncheons per month, to have senior citizens still contribute the nominal fee (\$1.00), and to open it to Armenian senior citizens whether they are members of the church or not."

Harry Terzian asked for suggested recommendations for the offsetting amount to the \$4,000 added to the budget.

Several suggestions were made by Armen Safilian, Gary Zamanigian, Harry Zartarian as to where the money could be found. Mrs. Alice Kouzoujian, a senior citizen, suggested the senior citizens pay \$2.00 per luncheon instead of \$1.00 and perhaps that would solve it. Parish Council Chairman Rick Apkarian announced the Parish Council has worked with deficit budgets in the past and will work it out. It was not a problem for the Assembly.

Ralph Church made a motion to accept the 1980 report and the 1981 budget as amended. It was seconded, voted upon and carried. The chair stated the next item on the Agenda as No. 8, By-Laws Amendments and Proposals, and called upon Diocesan Delegate Sooren Gozmanian.

Mr. S. Gozmanian on behalf of the Diocesan Delegates, presented before the parish this year a series of amendments to the Diocesan By-Laws which have been submitted to the Diocese and was seeking approval from the parishioners.

A formal list of these amendments is attached for exact wording. Mr. Gozmanian explained the first proposal - Proposed Article 7. This states that a member in a parish may be eligible for office in a parish after two years membership, rather than one.

The chair asked for questions on the proposal. Arthur Barsamian stated that while this proposal was a good one for large parishes, he felt it would hurt the smaller parishes who rely heavily on newcomers taking over responsible offices. Considerable discussion followed with the weighing of pros and cons between Messrs. Gozmanian, Barsamian and K. Terterian. Mr. M. Cholakian had some input and Gary Javizian wondered what specific benefits the proposal would have for St. John's. Archie Yeghissian questioned why the proposals had been submitted to the Diocesan Council before they were presented to our parish for review.

The chair informed Mr. Yeghissian the proposals had to be submitted to meet the submission deadline of proposals; that if we did not support them, our delegates would not support them. ✓

There was voting on the proposal. It was defeated.

Proposed Article 14 B (1)

By-Laws in reference to directions to the Nominating Committee indicate that the Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate double the number of vacancies. This proposal would change the wording to indicate to prepare a slate "at least" double the number of vacancies.

After voting, this proposal was carried.

Proposed Article 14 B (2)

This indicates that the Nominating Committee members may enter their names on the slate. The proposal would change to say "Nominating Committee members may not place their names in nomination.

After voting, this proposal was carried.

Proposed Article 14 B (3)

One of the charges of the Nominating Committee is that the Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate by majority vote. In order to prevent the possibility of a single person veto, this proposal adds the wording "shall select and nominate a candidate by majority vote."

After some discussion by Lucy Merzian and Harry Demergian, and Gary Javizian, parishioners voted to accept this proposal.

Proposed Article 14 B (4)

The By-Laws presently say the Nominating Committee, together with the Auditing Committee, shall govern the election of the Parish Council, Auditing Committee, etc. This proposal is simply changing words to make it clear that "the Auditing Committee shall assist the Nominating Committee in tallying and verifying said elections."

Parishioners voted to carry this proposal.

Proposed Article 17

This proposal makes it specific that in case a quorum is not present all actions of the Parish Assembly shall be carried on with a two-thirds vote. That is, two-thirds of those present.

Parishioners voted favorably for this proposal.

Proposed Article 21

This proposal changes the word "plurality to majority" of ballots cast for elections for Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees, and the Diocesan Delegates.

There was much discussion on this proposal. Messrs. H. Zartarian, M. Manoogian, G. Javizian, Raffi Aprahamian, Archie Yeghissian and Charles Stambouljian, all voiced their opinions unfavorably. Messrs. Ara Haig, Harry Terzian, Ralph Church and Mrs. Zabel Atesian spoke in favor of the proposal.

Proposal was voted on and defeated.

Proposed Article 33

This Article enumerates the powers and duties of the Parish Council -- such as carrying out decisions of the parish, collecting dues, etc. -- the proposal would specifically pinpoint the responsibility of the parish council by adding the following sentence: "To ensure the regular and timely payment to the Diocese, of all regular and special Diocesan assessments."

Mr. Gozmanian reported this will make it a collective responsibility for all the Parish Council and not just the Chairman or Treasurer.

This proposal was voted on and accepted.

Proposed Article 36

This proposes to extend the responsibility of the Auditing Committee to examine accounts of all parish organizations and standing committees, in addition to the accounts of the Parish Council.

This is done presently in Detroit but thought it should be formalized.

There were no arguments for or against. Parishioners voted and the proposal was accepted.

Proposed Article 50

This proposal will formalize recognition of Diocesan Council members as official members of the Diocesan Assembly. In other words, "A member of the Diocesan Council, not elected as a lay delegate from a parish shall have all the rights and privileges of a delegate in the Diocesan Assembly."

There was a tremendous amount of discussion for and against between Mr. Gozmanian and Mr. Yeghissian, with some input from Harry Terzian and Mr. Simon Javizian.

Parishioners voted in favor of this proposal.

Mr. Sooren Gozmanian thanked the parishioners for their patience and indulgence and promised to carry out our wishes.

Mr. John Semizian suggested, if possible, the Diocesan delegates should strive to put the proposals in the booklet so they can be read prior to the Parish Assembly.

The Chair stated the next item on the Agenda was New Business.

Alice Kouzoujian asked if there was any news on the Senior Citizens complex.

Parish Council Chairman Rick Apkarian responded by saying we have again submitted an application to the Federal Government and are currently pursuing the matter for 1981.

Khazar Terterian stated he wanted to propose that we have absentee ballots for St. John parishioners. The reason primarily to serve Senior Citizens and individuals who have valid reasons for not being present at Parish Assemblies.

The chair suggested Mr. Terterian bring this request to the attention of the Diocesan delegates between now and next year's submission of proposals.

Masa Carman brought up the subject of proper dress code for parishioners at St. John's. He explained how distressing it is to see parishioners receiving holy communion with paper headpieces that fly off while attempting to receive communion and implored Father Paren Avedikian to do something about it.

Father Paren explained to Mr. Carman that canons cannot be established by him or our body. This problem, in fact, was presented to the Primate for his consideration and because of the difficulties it might create with today's society, etc., the Primate chose not to take action.

At this moment, John Bahadurian, an usher at St. John's said he sympathized with Mr. Carman and had personally visited a fabric store and purchased material which had been cut and we now have 140 headpieces for use.

The chair announced the election results were in and called on Nominating Committee Chairman, Haic Korkoian, to make the new announcements. Mr. Korkoian read the results in alphabetical order, as follows:

Parish Council

Souren Aprahamian
Arthur Mardigian
Michael Mousigian

Ashod Torosian
Leo Zamanigian

Nominating Committee

Richard Norsigian
Dr. Dennis Papazian
Albert Sarkisian

Richard Vahratian
Carl Varadian

Auditor

Martin Manoogian

It was announced that 408 parishioners voted,

The chair then invited Father Paren Avedikian to give his closing message, followed by the benediction.

Father Paren commended the parishioners who had endured the length of the meeting. He expressed his thanks to the following individuals for services rendered to St. John's, who were now stepping down from their responsibilities:

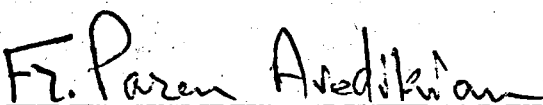
- * Richard Simonian, Auditor.
Served two terms and was instrumental in setting up computerized reporting of finances.
- * Souren Keoleian, Treasurer.
Served as Treasurer for 5 years
Served on Parish Council for 6 years
- * Dr. Michael Armoudlian
Served two years on Parish Council, the last one as Vice Chairman of the Council.

Father Paren also thanked Mr. George Cross and Mrs. Ann Laktzian who served as Officers of the Assembly; as well as Vice Chairman and Assistant Secretary, Mr. Martin Cholakian and Mrs. Ida Varadian.

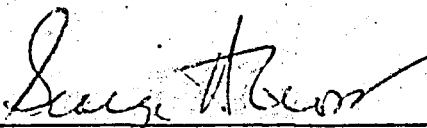
Father Paren then welcomed and congratulated the new members elected to the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

He especially wanted to extend his appreciation to the Nominating Committee for successfully keeping the results of the election confidential until the announcement.

Father Paren offered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m.


Father Paren Avedikian, President


Ann Laktzian, Secretary


George Cross, Chairman