

PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF
ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1984

On Friday, February, 10, 1984, at 8:30 P.M. Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian, Parish Council Chairman, invited the Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor, to give the Invocation.

Mr. Mardigian then announced St. John's Annual Parish Assembly to be open and ready to proceed with its agenda. He then announced that the eligibility of members has been verified and that a quorum of fifty members had been well exceeded.

Kathy Mekjian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee was invited to present the Slates for the elections. Miss Mekjian first introduced the members of the Nominating Committee and thanked them for their efforts, she then introduced the candidates for Chairman of the Day: Martin Cholakian and Dr. Dennis Papazian. Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor, there were none. It was moved and seconded to close the nominations. Then the Assembly by vote closed the nominations.

Because the only candidate for Secretary of the Day was not present, due to illness, nominations were taken from the floor. Yerezgin Rosalie Papazian was nominated. The nomination was seconded. It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and voted upon in the affirmative. Mr. Mardigian read Article fourteen of the By-Laws which states that a slate double the positions to be filled is required. The membership felt the spirit of the law had been met. It was moved and seconded to have Yerezgin Rosalie Papazian elected Secretary of the Day by acclamation. The Assembly concurred by a show of hands.

Martin Cholakian and Dennis Papazian were introduced to the membership with the reading of their service to the Church by Miss Mekjian, who also explained the voting procedures. Ballot vote was taken for Chairman of the Day and the meeting proceeded while the ballots were being counted.

Dr. Paul Hovsepian made the motion which was seconded that, "The background information of candidates printed in the Torch Bearer, the Parish paper, not be read for the candidates to be presented." The Chair decided to hold off action on the motion to see if nominations would be brought from the floor, because that might influence the decision.

Miss Mekjian then presented the slate of Candidates for the Parish Council (See attached list, Exhibit 1). It was moved to close the nominations. The motion was seconded and carried.

The names of the candidates for the Nominating Committee (See Exhibit 1) were read. It was moved to close the nominations. The motion received a second and carried.

Miss Mekjian read the names of the three candidates for Auditing Committee and explained that three were to be elected. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved to close nominations. The motion was seconded and carried. It was moved to accept Robert Aginian, Edward Karamanian, and Albert Mardirosian by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried. Once again Mr. Mardigian pointed out the requirements of Article 14 of the By-Laws.

Garo Yeghissian moved "To reconsider the motion to close nominations for Auditing Committee." The motion was seconded and defeated.

Albert Mardirosian made the suggestion that in the future the Nominating Committee should, well in advance, advise the Pastor that they have openings on the slate for Auditors and request that a notice be placed in the Torch Bearer and church bulletin, asking for volunteers to fill the vacancies.

Mr. Mardigian stated that the consideration of the motion to refrain from reading the background information of candidates as they were introduced, was in order. After due consideration of the motion, the Assembly showed its support of the motion by show of hands.

The candidates for various positions were then introduced by Miss Mekjian by name only.

Mr. Mardigian announced that Dr. Dennis Papazian had been elected Chairman of the Assembly.

In accepting his position Dr. Papazian made mention that either candidate could have chaired the meeting well and expressed appreciation to the membership for their confidence in him expressed by their vote.

Jack Kazanjian made the observation that new business was not an item on the agenda. Dr. Papazian suggested that if Mr. Kazanjian intended to bring up new business that he move to add new business to number nine on the agenda to make it read, "Proposals and New Business." The motion was made, seconded and passed.

The minutes of the 1983 Annual Parish Assembly were received after it was so moved, seconded and passed. The motion was made, seconded, and passed not to read the minutes. There were no corrections or additions and the minutes were approved as written.

The Chairman of the Day proceeded through the reports calling for questions on the different headings.

Marie Danielian raised a question on the Senior Citizens' Housing Complex on page 13 of the Annual Report. The Parish Council Chairman advised that the subject would be taken up under Parish Council Proposals.

John Bahadurian raised the question of price of Senior Citizens' Luncheons. The Chairman deferred the question to new business.

It was moved to accept the official Reports of the Pastor; Parish Council, and Church Auxiliary Organizations. The motion was seconded and passed.

Richard Baylerian raised a question about the church owned property in Sterling Heights sold in October for \$15,500.00, page 19 of the Annual Report. He recalled that at a past Parish Assembly the motion was passed to give the money to the youth when the property was sold. He also recalled that the property had a much higher value.

Parish Council Chairman said that in effect the spirit of the motion had been carried out when the Youth Room was refurbished in the Recreation Center. He also denied that the property had a higher value at any time.

Dr. Papazian suggested, since it was a question of fact, that the records be checked and a report be given at the subsequent Parish Assembly.

The Chairman of the Day suggested that someone move to accept the Financial Reports for 1983.

It was so moved. The motion was seconded and passed.

Arthur Apkarian presented the following Parish Council Proposal related to the Senior Citizens' Housing Complex:

"The Parish Council for the past 4 years has aggressively pursued and applied for HUD money to finance a Senior Citizen's Housing Project. Unfortunately we have not been successful to date. This past year was our most promising effort. But again we fell short. We have been informed that we were one of the top four applicants for approval. We were within an eyelash of being awarded our request.

This year the Parish Council wishes to take two avenues of approach in the financing of our Senior Citizen's Complex.

1. To continue with HUD Financing.
2. To research the feasibility of private financing.

The reasons for the second avenue of approach are as follows:

- A. We have been informed by HUD that the 1984 appropriations for this type of project has been reduced.
- B. If this assembly wishes to pursue Senior Citizen's housing, each delay, each year that goes by, additional costs are incurred, which could eliminate any chance of success.

The program could consist of these areas:

- a. Total Private finance from lending institutions
- b. Selling units as condemeniums
- c. Community Fund Raising
- d. Selling of Bonds
- e. Or any combination of the above mentioned possibilities

Eventually, when we have explored all of the avenues we will present a complete package to our Assembly and at that time ask for your approval.

Therefore, the Parish Council is proposing that you, the Parish Assembly, charge the Parish Council to pursue both avenues of financing, for the ultimate success of our dreams."

Arthur Apkarian moved the above proposal. It was seconded that the proposal be adopted.

A question was raised as to the proposed location. Mr. Apkarian explained that if HUD finances the project it will be built on Mt. Vernon Drive, if the Church membership finances the project, the building site will probably be on the Church property.

Dr. Papazian restated the motion for clarification.

"If the Parish Council proceeded with HUD financing, then it would be acting in conformity with the motion of approval passed at the Parish Assembly four years ago; but if they proceeded with any plan of private - non-government supported - financing, then the new plan of financing would be brought to the Parish Assembly for approval."

The motion was passed as clarified.

The second proposal of the Parish Council, intended for the Diocesan Assembly, was presented by George Cross. The text follows:

"That the Diocese decree a nationwide commemoration of Martyr's Day on April 24, 1985, the 70th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and a committee be appointed to carefully plan the event.

That the commemoration be held in Washington, D.C. at the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial,

That each parish be requested to send at least one busload of parishioners including men, women, and children.

That the Diocese require the presence of all its clergy.

That a planned march be held to the Memorial, led by the Archbishop and the clergy.

That a Requiem Mass be conducted at the memorial.

That congressman, senators and the President be invited to attend."

RATIONALE:

"For 70 years, we Armenians have told each other of the massacres. We know the story. It is time the story be told with impact to the rest of the world. Washington is recommended as the site because it is the Capitol of the United States and the eyes of the world are turned to Washington, therefore our visibility will be greater. The Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial are recommended because they symbolize freedom and emancipation. A diocesan decree is recommended because the Diocese and the Archbishop symbolize the more than 1700 years of Armenian Christianity and because politically no one attacks the actions of a Church. (Witness the Roman Catholic Pope's actions politically).

A march is recommended because it creates interest in the general public passing by. They ask questions about the march, such as, who is marching, for what reason, etc.

The political officials be invited because the news media follows the politicians and the politicians all have press secretaries and have access to media coverage."

Guy Amboian asked for and received clarification that the proposal pertained to members of our Diocese only.

Martin Cholakian made the suggestion to add to the proposal that the Genocide was committed by the Turkish Government and that the title "Archbishop", be replaced with "Primate."

These changes having been made, the proposal was accepted by acclamation.

Victoria Reizian presented the Parish Council final proposal:

"The Parish dues, beginning in 1985, be \$100.00 per person and \$200.00 per couple, with exceptions being allowed for those with limited income, who would be required to pay a minimum of \$25.00",

The Chairman asked for a motion to have this proposal discussed under agenda Item 8, Budget. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

The 1984 Budget was presented by Parish Council treasurer, Ashod Torosian. He explained that the Parish Council's spending had exceeded the 1983 Budget by \$7,000.00 and that at a Special Assembly the increase had been approved.

Therefore he deemed it necessary to ask for a 2 1/4% increase which would bring our budget for 1984 to \$687,200.00.

Jack Margosian requested information concerning the \$48,677.00 expenditures over the 1983 budget. The Treasurer explained that there were 27 pay periods

for the year 1983, rather than the usual 26. Also he stated that the policy is to buy new automobiles for the clergy every four years or 60,000 miles whichever comes first and it so happened that two had to be purchased this year. The third reason was that storm windows were purchased for the front windows of the Cultural Building which have, as expected, cut down on heating costs and, hopefully, they will cut air conditioning costs in the summer.

It was moved to accept and to approve \$687,200.00 as the budget for 1984. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Treasurer then expressed his appreciation to the Budget Committee and to the parishioners for accepting the Budget.

It was moved to accept the motion that the Parish dues, beginning in 1985, be \$100.00 per person and \$200.00 per couple with exceptions being allowed for those with limited income, who would be required to pay a minimum of \$25.00. There was a second to the motion.

Fr. Paren explained that anyone on limited income regardless of age could pledge whatever they wanted with a minimum of at least \$25.00.

Dr. Papazian called for a vote. The motion carried.

Under new business, Jack Kazanjian moved that the Parish establish an honorary Parish Council Member Ermitus either by election or by appointment. The motion was seconded. After a brief discussion the motion failed.

John Semizian recommended a budgetary item for 1985: A switchboard to be installed in the Church Office.

John Bahadurian moved to raise the Senior Citizens' Luncheon from \$2.00 to \$3.00. The motion did not receive a second.

Kazar Terterian moved that an ongoing report of special expenditures for the building be reported in the Torch Bearer monthly. The motion was seconded and discussed. Then a vote was taken and the motion failed.

Dr. Papazian announced the election results as follows:
Parish Council: Ardavazt Ekizian, Alberta Godoshian, Ronald Godoshian, Victoria Reizian, Andrew Tarpinian, Kazar Terterian.

Nominating Committee: James Baharozian, Charlotte Boshnakian, Paul Hovsepien, Mary Keoleian, Richard Torigian.

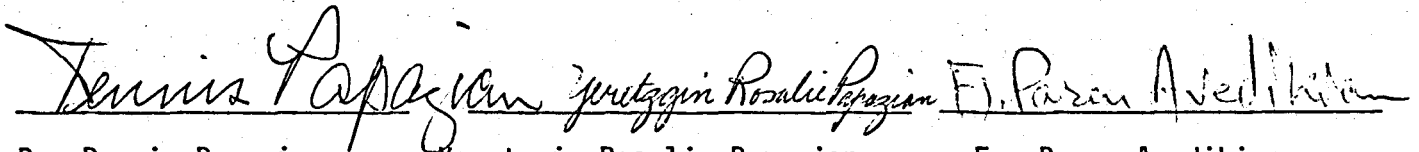
At this point it was read in the minutes that a total of 281 parishioners were present and voting.

Dr. Papazian thanked those that ran and congratulated those that had won. He then thanked all at the Assembly for their kind cooperation and said it was a pleasure to have served them.

Fr. Paren congratulated the Chairman of the Day and the parishioners for the well conducted meeting. He congratulated the newly elected officers and thanked the other candidates for their willingness to serve.

Fr. Paren announced that the Apostolic Society will be going for bids on the Museum and Library section, the last portion of the Church expansion project.

Fr. Paren then closed the meeting with a benediction. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.



Dr. Dennis Papazian
Assembly Chairman

Yeretzgin Rosalie Papazian
Assembly Secretary

Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor and President