

MINUTES OF ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Friday, February 8, 1985

I. The Assembly was called to order by the Parish Council Chairman, Arthur Mardigian, at 8:10 p.m. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor, offered the invocation.

II. Mr. Mardigian announced that in accordance with Article 17 of the Bylaws, the Assembly was in order.

Mr. Mardigian announced the following errors in the Annual Booklet: On page 10, Alberta Godoshian's name was omitted from the In-Lieu-of-Flowers column; on page 29, at the bottom of the Balance Sheet, Andrew Tarpinian's name should appear as Treasurer; and on page 48, the title "1982 New Year's Eve" should read "1983 New Year's Eve."

III(a) The Nominating Committee was asked to present the candidates for Assembly Officers. Mr. Richard Torigian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, thanked the members of the 1984 Nominating Committee and proceeded to explain the voting procedure to the Assembly. Mr. John Semizian was then asked to give the explanation in Armenian.

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

Assembly Chairman

Martin Cholakian
Dennis Papazian

Assembly Secretary

Angela Banerian
Judy Hovnan

Mr. Mardigian asked if there were additional nominations for Assembly Chairman. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Chairman of the Day. The motion passed. The floor was then opened for additional nominations for Secretary of the Day. There being none, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the nominations for Secretary of the Day.

Ballots for Assembly offices were then distributed, voted upon, and collected by the monitors.

(b) Mr. Torigian then presented the candidates for Parish Council (5 to be elected):

Arthur Apkarian
Armen Hovnanian
Edward Karamanian
Alex Keurejian
Edward H. Korcoian

Homer Lafian
Arthur S. Mardigian
Armen Safilian
Harry Terzian
Richard Torigian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved, seconded, and passed to close the nominations.

III(c) Mr. Torigian presented the candidates for Auditing Committee (3 to be elected):

Robert Aginian
Armand Krimian
George Laktzian
Albert Simonian
Thomas Stamboulian

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. Motion carried.

III(d) Mr. Torigian presented the candidates for Nominating Committee (5 to be elected):

Hagop Asadurian	Harry Mardirosian
Jerry Dayinian	Kathy Mekjian
Paul Jingoian	Richard Vahratian
Andrew Kasper	Charles Yessaian
Michael Matoian	

Mr. Mardigian asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved, seconded, and passed to close the nominations.

A motion was made and seconded to waive biographical sketches of candidates for Parish Council, the Nominating Committee and the Auditing Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ballots were then distributed for the above offices and collected by the monitors.

IV. Mr. Mardigian informed the Assembly that 264 ballots were cast for Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day and further that Dr. Dennis Papazian and Judy Hovnan were elected to those respective positions.

Dr. Dennis Papazian thanked the Assembly for their confidence in electing him Chairman of the Day; and he suggested that since Detroit has so much talent, perhaps next year someone else would be able to serve.

Dr. Papazian said that one of the concerns of last year was regarding the length of time we would allow for voting. He suggested a motion to the effect that we close the balloting at a particular time. It was moved and seconded to close the elections at 9:15 p.m. The motion carried.

V. The Minutes of the 1984 Annual Parish Assembly was next on the Agenda. There were no corrections or additions to the Minutes. A motion was made that the Minutes be received. The motion was seconded and carried.

VI. Questions and answers on the 1984 Annual Report were then entertained by the Chair.

Nerses Serkaian asked what was meant by "management" under Administrative Duties in the Pastor's Report (page 5). He noted that in the Bylaws the Pastor of our church shall supervise the Sunday School and also supervise the Bylaws to the letter. Fr. Paren responded that this means the management of day-to-day operations as well as taking care of correspondence as necessary.

Mr. Serkaian asked for an explanation in the Pastor's Report regarding the 70th Anniversary of the Genocide (page 7). He asked Fr. Paren to explain his statement, "Gatherings consisting of speechmaking, recitations, the reading of proclamations from second-rate government officials and marches are all ineffective ways...." Fr. Paren responded that the statement means what it says. Mr. Serkaian recalled a commemoration last year where one of the U. S. Senators, Mr. Carl Levin, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Serkaian asked if Mr. Levin would be considered a second-rate politician. Fr. Paren responded that he did not care to answer that question.

Mr. Serkaian commented regarding the Martyrs' Day Observance on April 29, 1984 (page 14). He said that the statement, "In an effort not to conflict with a planned observance by community organizations,..." was incorrect. He explained that the planned observance was not by community organizations but included members of St. John's, St. Sarkis, the Armenian Congregational Church, St. Vartan's, the AGBU, the ARS, etc., but was not sanctioned by any one church or organization. Therefore, the statement should be corrected to reflect "...with a planned observance by community members,..." Mr. Serkaian continued that it was not an organization commemoration; it was a commemoration of Armenian people who gathered together for the first time in this community.

Dr. Papazian announced that the voting was officially closed per the decision of the Assembly.

Paul Bazigian asked who will replace the two members of the Apostolic Society who had passed away. Dr. Papazian responded that the Apostolic Society's Executive Body will replace them.

In response to a question, Dr. Papazian suggested that a motion be made to put New Business on the Agenda; and if 50 percent of the parishioners are for the motion, we will discuss New Business according to the Bylaws.

Martin Manoogian asked when the last time the Primate was in our parish and if there is a reason why he has not been here recently? Mr. Mardigian responded that our Primate was last here in 1983. He advised that we invited him in June or July of 1984, and we were given two dates on which he was available -- one was Palm Sunday of 1985 and the other on May 19, 1985. Arrangements have been made for the Primate to visit us on May 19, 1985.

Harry Couyoumjian made a motion that we place New Business on the Agenda. The motion was seconded and passed. Dr. Papazian advised that there is a question as to whether particular items must be approved; and, therefore, he would allow this body to decide by a majority vote if a particular item could be added.

Dr. Papazian announced that the Financial Report for 1984 Actual is a part of the Annual Report. Therefore, it was discussed at this time (pages 30 and 31).

Jack Margosian raised a question under Expenditures (Salaries). He asked if the Activities Director is a part of the budget in the Actual column. Andrew Tarpinian, Treasurer, responded that it is.

Mr. Margosian then questioned the fact that the Activities Director only worked 7 months of the year, yet we were over budget by \$7,773, which amounts to spending of more than \$12,000 than was authorized in 1984. Mr. Mardigian responded that the Activities Director worked for 8 months, not 7 months, and there was a 4-month

savings in salary. He explained that we paid Fr. Papken Anoushian through 4 months of the year, and his salary was not included in the 1984 budget. Mr. Mardigian further advised that we had a part-time Activities Director and a turnover of maintenance staff this past year, all of which contributed to additional salaries.

Mr. Margosian asked for a definition of Service Award and why we spent \$2,200 more than was authorized. Mr. Tarpinian advised that these awards are given every year to individuals who serve the Church as Church School teachers, Parish Council members, choir members, etc. He said the book presented this year was purchased at a pre-publication price which was an excellent buy. He felt the individuals who served this Church were entitled to the book.

Nerses Serkaian asked if the 1985 budgeted amount for salaries includes a curator for the new museum. Mr. Tarpinian responded that it does not, but it does include a new administrator for this building. Mr. Serkaian asked for a qualification of "Administrator," and he was told it is a building manager, someone to oversee the running of this building, and that a job description is currently being prepared by the Parish Council.

A question was raised by Martin Manoogian regarding an expense of \$252,135 under Building Operation on page 48. He questioned a subtraction of \$20,967 from the income. Mr. Tarpinian explained that Parish Council decided for 1984 to take \$1.00 a plate from the Cultural Hall kitchen operation and put it into a kitchen maintenance fund due to the tremendous cost in kitchen renovation. Mr. Manoogian asked if \$1.00 a plate more was generated, and the response was in the affirmative.

Mr. Manoogian's next question was of the \$252,135, how much was the caterer paid? Mr. Tarpinian answered that the caterer received all of it.

Mr. Manoogian asked if the expenses on page 31 reflecting the building operation are really true. He mentioned this two years ago. He said the building shows \$190,000 profit but questioned whether or not there was a true profit. Mr. Tarpinian said it is not the true profit; it is the net income from the building operation fund.

Mr. Manoogian continued that he was told all items on page 31 represent compensation like salary, benefits, payroll taxes, which total \$273,144. Of that amount, what part represents the maintenance and running of this building? Mr. Tarpinian said that that would be difficult to determine as this Hall is not used all the time for catering affairs or rentals. It is used for church organizations, church meetings, church organizational meetings, etc. Mr. Manoogian advised that at the time he was auditor, he made a recommendation that we could make those allocations but evidently the Parish Council didn't desire to do so. Mr. Mardigian referred to the Supplemental Information on page 47 which was formulated when Mr. Manoogian was on the Auditing Committee. He recalled that the Auditing Committee was invited to a Parish Council meeting where they sat and established an approximate formula for determining income and expenses for the Church, Hall, and Recreation Center, and the breakdown on page 47 is that formula. It is based on a portion of the heat, lights, and maintenance personnel being charged to the Church and a portion to the Hall.

Mr. Manoogian recalled a motion he made two years ago which was seconded and passed by the Assembly that the Parish Council will give a detailed report of the allocation of income and expenses on the various structures we have. He said

this was never done, and that is the reason he resigned as auditor. He felt that if we are spending \$8,000 in computer services, we could make the allocations. While it doesn't have to be 100 percent accurate, he believed it should not be a one-line item. It was his opinion that we are losing money rather than making money because we do not know what it costs to run an affair.

Mr. Mardigian advised that we will check back to the Minutes of the meeting Mr. Manoogian referred to and if what he said is true, it will be taken care of next year.

John Bahadurian supported Mr. Manoogian saying he was on the Auditing Committee at the same time and recalled that the Parish Council was against the detailed breakdown. He said the result was all three auditors were going to resign.

Nerses Serkaian referred to page 47 and asked if we actually lost \$18,600 as it appears when adding the receipts for the Church and Cultural Hall and subtracting the deficit for the Recreation Center. Mr. Tarpinian said that that figure was, in fact, the amount of the disbursements over receipts.

Robert Aginian, a current auditor, said, for the record, that pages 47 and 48 were not audited by the current Auditing Committee. He questioned overall building operations relative to the \$252,000 paid to the caterers. He asked if there has ever been a study on what it actually costs to rent out the Hall and if we know what it costs to rent the Hall for an evening and whether we are charging an appropriate amount. Without detailed figures to compute the amounts, Mr. Aginian felt we do not know whether it is worth renting out. He said he would not object to taking on the responsibility of figuring it out and reporting to the parishioners. Mr. Tarpinian pointed out that 66.9 percent of the income is from outsiders' rentals (page 20).

Mr. Aginian argued that while that is true, it may be costing us more to rent to outsiders than we are receiving. By example, he asked if we charge \$5.00 per person not including the caterers, does that amount cover our costs? Fr. Paren responded that Mr. Manoogian and Mr. Bahadurian are correct in that there was a discussion between the auditors and Parish Council. He recalled that the Parish Council studied the situation, and, at that time, the profit and net income from the operation of the building was \$7,000; and the Parish Council, in its wisdom, decided that for the sake of the parishioners and Armenian organizations, we would keep on operating the way we have been.

Mr. Aginian stated that no one is opposed to breaking even, or even taking a loss, to rent this Hall for Armenian organizations or groups as that is part of the purpose of the Church; but if we are renting 66 percent to outsiders, perhaps a study should be conducted on an annual basis to determine the cost of the operation of this Hall. He queried how we arrive at what we charge for the operation of this Hall and if we figure costs when determining rental fees to outsiders. He felt that the parishioners should be made aware of this. Mr. Aginian further suggested that maybe the time has come, due to the size of our budget and our Church, that we should have outside independent auditors auditing our books and have financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles so we can fully understand the operations of this building.

Nerses Serkaian expressed concern that the current Auditing Committee did not audit pages 47 and 48 and asked who did those pages. Mr. Mardigian explained that the Supplemental Information page was prepared by the Parish Council according to their approved formula of allocation from income and expenses. Mr. Serkaian remarked that it is distressing that two auditors wanted to resign and a current auditor says he doesn't have the actual figures, yet Parish Council can present reports they compiled without the help of auditors. He questioned the accuracy of the figures.

Martin Manoogian stated that all the figures are absolutely correct, and he sees no fault with them. His only qualm was seeing the figures have a sound basis. He remarked that we had a deficit for the past two years and don't know where the money is going to come from to take care of the Museum and Library. He mentioned that the misleading thing on page 47 is the receipts and expenditures for the Church. He said the Hall rental to outsiders as opposed to Church members is misleading because it includes the costs of maintaining the parking lot and snow removal and questioned whether or not these costs are necessary to be sure that the facilities are available for rental.

Another point made by Mr. Manoogian was that 66 percent who rent this Hall are outsiders and only 6 percent of the renters are Armenians. He said to take this and multiply it times ten and that is the reason we had to redo this kitchen, the carpeting and the Hall facilities. He stated that we are not being reimbursed for this and if we were making money on this Hall, we wouldn't have to go to the parishioners to raise the money to redo the kitchen. He stated that if we can't raise enough money renting it, we have to go and solicit the money from our membership. Mr. Manoogian added that if we look at our cash position, we have decreased by \$10,000 from the prior year, and if that continues, we only have \$300,000 to operate this Church on. We have never had five cents worth of interest on this building or payments, because everything was paid for by the parishioners, not by revenue. Therefore, he stated that this Church should have at least \$1,000,000. Mr. Manoogian agreed with Mr. Aginian and said he is surprised that Mr. Aginian is a CPA and he wasn't even brought in to work under Parish Council. He emphasized that there are qualified people willing to give of their time and work for this Church but then obstacles are thrown in front of them.

Harry Zartarian stated that he agreed with Mr. Manoogian 100 percent. He then commented that on page 31, the budget appears inflated. The Chair asked Mr. Zartarian to defer his questioning of the 1985 budget until we finish the 1984 Actual.

Douglas Takesian said he was shocked to learn recently that people renting the Hall cannot bring in their own caterers and asked for an explanation. Mr. Tarpinian advised that Golden Touch Caterers have had a contract for a number of years. The rationale for the exclusive contract was that somebody is willing to cater all the time and that we are satisfied with the food preparation. He advised, however, that anyone renting the Recreation Center may bring in their own caterer.

Nurses Serkaian asked whether the canopy over the lobby entrance was reflected in the 1984 budget. Mr. Tarpinian stated that it was not and explained that the Apostolic Society funded the construction of the canopy. Mr. Serkaian then asked if it is correct that that thing was originally planned to cost the Apostolic Society "Our Church" something like \$35,000, or was it \$60,000, and the actual cost became \$135,000? He was advised that this was not true, and he proceeded to ask what the final cost was. Daniel Shahan first expressed his pride in the fact that so many parishioners have asked questions but stressed that he felt something positive should be said for the Parish Council instead of all the negative comments that have been made. He then said that the figures reflected by Mr. Serkaian regarding the canopy were nothing but rumors. He said the canopy, actually, when he had the bids come in, we had \$120,000 and some odd dollars actual competitive contractors' bids -- not rumors -- and we negotiated with the contractor with a not-to-exceed maximum amount to share in the savings we could come up with. He finished by saying if anybody thinks what we did was wasted, he would like for them to come forward and prove it. Mr. Shahan, again being asked by Mr. Serkaian for the final cost of the canopy, chose not to answer the question.

John Ohanian asked why a simple question would not be answered by the Apostolic Society. He again asked that the cost of the canopy be revealed and if not, he would refuse to pay any more dues.

The Chair advised the Assembly that this is not the parish's business but the Apostolic Society's concern; and, therefore, we would proceed with our Agenda.

A motion was then made to accept the reports as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

VII. Parish Council Update

Senior Citizens' Housing

George Cross, a member of the Parish Council, reported that for the past five years the Assembly has authorized the Parish Council to apply for HUD approval of a loan for Senior Citizens' Housing which has been done. He said that although we filed again this year and the application was accepted as complete and within the requirements, it did not receive favorable action by the government. He explained that the determination was made based on need, and it was felt that Southfield did not have a need for such housing. However, Mr. Cross added that pursuant to the authorization of the Assembly, the Parish Council appointed a committee to study the possibility of funding it ourselves. The committee of 13 members of our parish has been meeting to study the feasibility of the following: buying an existing apartment, buying land to build it on, or building it on this property. He explained that the charge by the Parish Council is to have a report in final form by May 1, 1985. Mr. Cross further advised that he is on the committee and assured the Assembly that the senior citizens have not been forgotten. He stressed that this structure must be something the parish can afford to operate without supplementing it from revenues from the Church. Additionally, he stated the intention is for the complex to be self-liquidating. Mr. Cross stated that if the report was received favorably by the Parish Council, then a Special Assembly would be called.

There being no questions, the Chair introduced the next item.

Commemoration of Martyrs' Day -- Diocesan Level

In response to Arthur Mardigian's question, the Assembly voted by show of hands, to have the communication received from the Diocese highlighted as opposed to read in its entirety. He explained that the first observance was to be a program honoring Governor George Deukmejian of California on February 23, 1985, in Washington, D. C. There would be speakers and a cultural program, with a portion of the program for survivors. Tickets for this reception are \$100.00 per person. A follow-up memorandum was received on February 6, 1985, from the Diocese and was read by Mr. Mardigian. He explained that everything concerning survivors has now been dropped, and it is strictly a testimonial to honor Governor Deukmejian. Mr. Mardigian quoted the closing remarks of the communication: "This event is designed to create an awareness of Armenian culture and achievement, and it is the first of a series of activities which will launch the 1985 year of remembrance. As such, your help in making it a success is greatly appreciated." Mr. Mardigian stated that if this is the way our Diocese is observing Martyrs' Day, he seriously questions the wisdom of the leadership of the Diocese. Mr. Mardigian offered to forward the names, of anyone interested in attending, to the Diocese. Mr. Mardigian said that this was all reported at the Special Assembly last year following the Diocesan Assembly. He recalled that at our Annual Parish Assembly last year, a proposal was submitted from this parish that the Diocese, during the week of April 23-28, 1985, should have a major observance in the nation's capitol. He continued that the Diocesan Assembly, in its wisdom, changed it to allow the Primate and Diocesan Council to make the final decision. He stated that the Prelacy of the Armenian Church felt that our idea was wonderful, and they proceeded to develop plans and are having major observances in Washington, D. C. during that entire week. He said they requested permission from us to send announcements of their observance to our parishioners, and we, in turn, asked the Primate for a decision on this matter. He did not give a clear answer. Since our policy regarding any announcements of major significance from St. Sarkis has always been, through a mutual understanding with them, that we will publicize things they ask us to do and vice versa, we approved their request to send the information to our mailing list.

The Chair informed the Assembly that, in all fairness, the Prelacy had rented rooms for this observance as far back as two years ago.

Douglas Takesian commented that many of us have lost loved ones in the massacres and that as a nation of Armenians, we should be reminding everyone every single day about the Armenian massacres and Martyrs' Day and not just once a year and then only to honor a politician. He felt it is insulting to those who died in the massacres. He commented that last year Nerses Serkaian had the foresight and wisdom, moreso than our Parish Council members, to put together a Martyrs' Day Commemoration on April 24, and it was a fantastic success. He felt insulted that the Primate could consider it a good idea to expect everyone to be able to afford to pay \$100.00, plus expenses, to go and honor Governor Deukmejian on this occasion. He believed that there are many people who want to participate and should participate, and it should be a joint effort with St. Sarkis and all the other churches.

Nerses Serkaian called attention to a telephone call which was received earlier in the day. He said that Carl Levin was invited to the February 23 observance, which was to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, along with Governor Deukmejian and Mr. Morgenthau III, grandson of Henry Morgenthau. Mr. Serkaian announced that they received a telephone call from New York telling Carl Levin, Senator Levin, that those plans had been changed. You are more than welcome if you want to attend, but it is not going to be a memorial or a commemoration of the Genocide. This event in Washington is going to be only a tribute to Governor Deukmejian, but that in April -- on April 24 -- in New York, the Diocese is going to hold its own memorial day observance of the Armenian Genocide.

There being no further comments, the Chair introduced the next item.

Commemoration of Martyrs' Day ---Local Level

Arthur Mardigian announced the local plans regarding the 70th observance of Martyrs' Day. He said a tentative program is being planned for April 21 or April 28, whichever date can be worked out. The committee will meet every other Tuesday evening, beginning February 12, and as the details are made, the parish will be informed.

There being no questions, Dr. Papazian introduced the review and approval of the 1985 budget.

VIII. Review and Approval of the 1985 Budget:

Andrew Tarpinian presented the 1985 proposed budget of \$724,700 to the Assembly -- an approximately 5-percent increase over 1985 (pages 30-31).

Jack Margosian questioned an increase of \$32,000 for pledges in 1985 over the last two years. It was explained that this amount is a result of the pledge increases effective this year.

Mr. Margosian then mentioned the 1983 and 1984 actual telephone expenses of \$13,000 asking if the 25 percent planned reduction to \$9,000 in 1985 is realistic. Mr. Tarpinian explained that we had new telephones and lines put in in 1983-4 and that telephone services were updated. The amount incurred was \$12,000. He further explained that since we now have our own equipment and all the telephone work has been completed, the costs for this year would be lower.

Mr. Margosian's next question was related to the Activities Committee. He noted that the 1985 budget is \$10,000; but in 1984, it is only \$1,189 and wondered why there is such a drastic increase. Mr. Tarpinian explained that in 1983 the actual was \$10,966. Last year we lost our Activities Director, and we expect to have many more activities in the building with a new Activities Director; therefore, \$10,000 is realistic for the Activities Committee.

Mr. Margosian asked if the budget increase of \$31,000 for salaries includes the Administrator and the Activities Director. Mr. Tarpinian responded that the budget is increased only \$24,000, which takes into consideration a new administrator. He explained that the Activities Director was already budgeted last year.

Harry Zartarian asked if we are actively seeking a building manager or have we already advertised for one. He additionally asked what his duties will be and how much authority will he have. Mr. Tarpinian explained that we are actively seeking a building manager and a job description is being compiled at the present time. The duties will include the running of this Hall, trying to maintain and reduce our utility expenses and supervision of the custodial staff.

Under travel and automobile expenses, Mr. Zartarian questioned the amount of \$11,000. Mr. Tarpinian responded that these monies were allocated for ACYOA to go to the Archbishop's and Sports' Weekend Tournaments. Mr. Zartarian noted that in previous years, only \$3,500 was allocated.

Mr. Zartarian focused on page 30, regarding the item for interest income in the amount of \$50,000, which is listed as an operating expense. He disagreed with the \$50,000 interest being considered an operating revenue. He rationalized that if you have monies in the bank earning interest, the interest is derived from the savings and is not an operating revenue. He felt it should not be included in the receipts and that we should not be allowed to spend it on the following page. Mr. Tarpinian explained it has been this way as long as he can remember, and it is part of our operating fund.

Mr. Zartarian made a motion to delete this interest income from page 30 in the amount of \$50,000 and then balance the budget accordingly. The motion was seconded, and discussion commenced.

George Cross spoke against the motion explaining, on behalf of Parish Council, that we are facing the same problems any major organization or private business faces and that Parish Council has had to use and depend upon its interest revenues in order to pay our bills regularly. If we didn't have this figure in there, the budget would have been overspent by \$68,000. This revenue from the interest is necessary for us to function and properly maintain this building and the other buildings. It is part of the revenue as much as the rug sales, the bazaars, and other incomes that we have. He pleaded that if it weren't for those revenues, we could not pay our bills and strongly recommended that it not be taken out of the operating revenues. He continued that in previous years the interest rates and things we invested in were much bigger but with the interest rates going down, our revenues will be much smaller, and we hope to realize \$50,000 in revenues. He urged that the Assembly vote against that measure.

Martin Manoogian spoke against the motion. He said it is human nature that when we give a man all the money, he spends it, and he believed that that was what Mr. Zartarian was trying to say. Mr. Manoogian agreed that if there is any possibility of cutting down expenses and having a reserve of \$50,000 of interest

income, that would be great; and he would like to see the Church run without depending upon the interest rates and interest earned. But he felt that in this kind of budget we cannot afford to knock off that kind of interest.

Frank Pulice also spoke against this motion. He said when you have an item you know you can get a receipt from, you take it; so it definitely has to be part of our income. However, he continued that it also behooves everybody that is involved in spending money that they try to spend it wisely. He said once a budget is prepared, it is important that we try to live within it. If Parish Council is responsible for spending money for this parish, then it should be held accountable for that money.

There being no further discussion, the motion was voted on and was defeated.

Mr. Zartarian agreed that it is difficult to prepare a budget like this and commended the Parish Council. He then asked how many employees we have on the payroll, either full- or part-time. Mr. Tarpinian responded that we have 15 employees.

Paul Bazigian raised three questions:

(1) On page 30 under line item "Rentals-Other," the 1984 budget is \$21,500. Since we brought in \$28,500, why is only \$14,000 allocated for 1985? Mr. Tarpinian said the \$28,500 was a two-year (1983-4) payment by AGBU, and it was paid in 1984. At the present time, we have no agreement with AGBU and are in the process of negotiating with them.

(2) On page 31 regarding line item "Appropriations--AGBU School," could you explain the \$10,000 which is budgeted for 1985. Mr. Tarpinian responded that this is a commitment that we have to the AGBU school every year.

(3) On page 31 regarding the Diocesan Assessment, we went into 1984 knowing what our assessment would be. We allocated \$58,600, and we paid them \$64,947; therefore, is \$65,000 going to be realistic. Mr. Tarpinian said this amount is realistic as we just had an increase in the Diocesan assessment. Arthur Mardigian explained further that the Diocesan assessment is based on a formula consisting of such things as clergy, plate, candles, sacraments, etc., and is not computed on the number of members we have as of the end of the calendar year. He said the Diocese takes the 1984 Actual and builds a 1985 formula. Harry Terzian stated that the Diocesan Assembly will be held in May and admitted that they could pass a substantially higher budget, and if so, we could conceivably be over our budget. Mr. Mardigian concluded that the \$65,000 figure is our best realistic estimate prior to the Diocesan Assembly, at which time it will be determined what our 1985 assessment will be.

Michael Mousigian asked if we have a budget item for repairing the Church roof. Mr. Tarpinian referred to page 29 of the balance sheet and explained that our future appropriations for building maintenance is for that purpose.

Jack Margosian extended his commendation for the Parish Council's diligence and tolerance in preparing the budget. He then reiterated a suggestion he made last year that line items be identified by a numerical sequence in the left-hand margin rather than having to search for line items by subject.

Sooren Gozmanian made a motion to adopt the budget as presented. The motion was seconded, and discussion followed.

Robert Aginian questioned an earlier response to the \$11,000 travel authorization budgeted for 1985. While he felt it was a fine gesture to allocate such monies for the ACYOA for Sports' Weekend and Archbishop's Tournaments, he noted on page 36 that last year's travel allocation was \$2,625. He assumed it could increase to \$3,000 next year and asked for an explanation of the additional \$8,000 that is allocated. Fr. Paren explained that the question earlier had not been answered fully. He explained that these travel expenses include Diocesan Delegates' travel, visiting clergy travel, and other such travel and is not limited to the ACYOA.

There being no further questions, the motion to accept the 1985 budget was voted on and passed.

Dr. Papazian then introduced New Business which had been added to the Agenda and explained the agreement to the effect that any items discussed will require a vote of half of the membership present.

IX. New Business

Harry Couyoumjian addressed the Assembly on behalf of St. John's Activities Advisory Board. Mr. Couyoumjian made a presentation explaining the duties of the Board and the methods used to reach the Armenian community (i.e., brochures, telephone contacts, etc.). He explained that these methods are not effective enough and that a more personal contact is needed. He appealed to the Assembly for their approval to extend contacts to the youth via announcements during Church School. He made a motion that the future Activities Director, the Board of Advisors or anyone acting on behalf of the Activities Committee be allowed to go into the classrooms on Sundays and into the chapel and into any assembly according to a prescribed schedule.

Dr. Papazian announced that before this motion could be put on the Agenda, it must have the approval of half the members present. A vote was sought, and the item was placed on the Agenda.

Harry Terzian opposed the motion expressing concern that the time allotted for Christian and Armenian education was of utmost importance and already extremely limited. He stated that he was not opposed to Activities Programs, but that the first obligation of the Church School was for the Christian and Armenian education of the students. He suggested adding 15 minutes before and after Church School for this purpose.

Jim Stamboulian spoke in favor of the motion revealing that he would not be here today had it not been for two things: At a time when he questioned his religion, Fr. Paren told him that the Armenian Church is not just for going to Church School. The Armenian Church is a way of life. The other reason is because a person like Harry Couyoumjian, namely, Richard Vahratian, took it upon himself to be sure he (Jim) came around to basketball, bowling, etc. While Mr. Stamboulian admitted he was not active in Parish Council work, he is very active in the activities and sports areas. He explained to the parishioners that by allowing activities and sports events to be announced in classrooms, they would benefit someday in that their children may be standing up at an Assembly participating like he is today.

Dr. Papazian asked Mr. Couyoumjian if he had approached the Church School to try and negotiate something. Mr. Couyoumjian responded that he had without success.

Anoush Papelian spoke in favor of the motion citing a specific example of the favorable results in her family as a result of a face-to-face contact. She felt that a short personal announcement made in the classroom could be invaluable whereas a flyer received in the mail could be put aside.

Margie Simonian asked that someone from the Church School Board respond to the Assembly as to how much of an intrusion this would be in the classroom.

Richard Vahratian, a member of the Church School Board, suggested that the Activities Board approach the Church School Board regarding this matter and that a decision should be made at that level rather than brought before this Assembly.

Mr. Eli Sarkissian asked the Assembly and Parish Council to do everything in its power to encourage the Armenian people to buy houses in this area. He said we should make this comparable to a little Hamtramck. He asked to make a motion to that effect. Dr. Papazian explained that there is already a motion on the floor.

Simon Javizian spoke for the motion saying that anything we can do to attract our kids and get them closer to our community should be done. However, he said we should do it expeditiously and wisely. He suggested a short presentation during assembly on a scheduled basis as opposed to announcements in the classroom or during chapel.

Dr. Papazian restated the motion which was then voted on and passed.

Kathy Mekjian asked where the Apostolic Society gets their operating funds; and if they come from this parish, why are they not accountable to this parish. Dr. Papazian responded that it is a separate Corporation and as long as we give them money, they have it. Arthur Mardigian further advised that one source of income for the Apostolic Society was sharing the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Fund. Whatever monies were collected in the name of St. John's for this fund was shared equally between the Apostolic Society and the Church. The Church's portion went into our Building Reserve Maintenance Fund, the fund from which monies will be taken to repair the roof, etc. As of November 30, 1984, however, there is a moratorium on dividing the In-Lieu-of-Flowers Fund; and all of the

money will be going into the Building Reserve Maintenance Fund of the Church. The explanation was given to the Apostolic Society that the building complex is aging, and there are several major repairs to be made in the near future; and they have agreed to this. As far as other income, it is by individual members to the Apostolic Society directly.

Fr. Paren clarified the information regarding individual contributions to the Apostolic Society. He explained that when you contributed in the past, you became a member. A ten-dollar donation gave you one vote, and, according to the amount of the contribution, you became a member of that Corporation. He explained that the Corporation does not meet regularly and that, unfortunately, they have not given us a report of their finances since 1971. However, he added that this parish assembly does not have the authority to make any requests from them. He added that the Apostolic Society members do meet once in a while and the report is given to them.

Stephan Karoughian reported that he had the honor of being nominated to the Parish Council last year, but some parishioners went around telling rumors that because of certain political affiliations, he doesn't deserve to be elected. He wanted to point out that he doesn't belong to any political party and has no desire to belong to any.

Elizabeth Roberts asked for an explanation of exactly what the Apostolic Society is. Dr. Papazian recapped, briefly, that in the past when we needed to build a new church, we established a group called the Apostolic Society; and the leadership of the community joined that to raise the money and protect it and it became a traditional thing. He emphasized what Fr. Paren explained regarding having votes in proportion to the number of shares you have. He said since certain people have given tremendous sums of money, they have a controlling share in the Corporation and, therefore, the legalities can be met without big meetings.

Mitzi Negohosian commented on the deplorable condition of the Church as far as housekeeping is concerned. She related that there are marks on the pews and floor and cobwebs that have been there for almost a year. She felt if we can't maintain what we have then we should not consider anything additional.

Martin Manoogian said the Apostolic Society was originally established for the purpose of building construction. He commented that while he is not the treasurer or otherwise affiliated with the Apostolic Society, he has done reports for them. He explained that they founded the Society and that is why the Church is in their name. He explained that in prior years the In-Lieu-of-Flowers money was given to the Apostolic Society for construction. Later on, he explained, it was split between the Apostolic Society and the Parish Council. He said that stock ownership means nothing, and that the thought was originally if you gave stock out, people would take more of an interest in it. It was his feeling that the money held by the Apostolic Society should be going for the purpose of new construction rather than maintaining what we have. He reiterated that as far as the Apostolic Society is concerned, they have their financial report and all the money is properly accounted for.

Dr. Papazian asked if there was any more formal New Business.

Nerses Serkaian stated that he realizes what he was about to say would bring him chastizement by some, but he was ready for it and could take it. He continued that he would probably be ridiculed, but again, he could take it. He added that we he was about to say would hurt some people, but no one in the room is more hurt than he. He continued saying that last October his son, John (age 26), and daughter, Roxanne (age 16), became members of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville. In the Hall is a plaque with Steven Serkaian's name as a graduate of Sunday School, and John's name is on the board, and his dream was to have his daughter's name up there with them, but she quit Sunday School. He said kids today are more sophisticated than we were; they are smarter. He felt he failed his daughter. He said they received a letter from the Church, the Superintendent of the Sunday School, saying that my daughter pledged 50 cents a week, she has missed 19 weeks, and she owes \$9.50. At no time did anybody from the Church School, the Parish Priest, or the teacher call Roxanne to see if she was hurt or sick and to say that she was missed. They looked for the \$9.50. At one time Roxanne was in Sunday School and one week she walked into Church with her classmates during the sermon which was interrupted, and they were told that if they couldn't come into Church on time, don't come into Church. At that time, my daughter quit. It wasn't her fault she was late; she was excused late. It was her teacher's fault. It took all Kathy and I could do to get her to come back to Sunday School. There is a change in this parish. Accept it or not, there is a change. A few moments ago, Harry Couyoumjian got up and asked if he could have his group devoted to the youth talk to these kids for maybe five minutes once a month, and thank God, you people said yes. This is a positive step. But our kids and their minds aren't what they were when we were kids in Sunday School and when we were parishioners of the old Church called St. John the Baptist Armenian Church on Oakman Boulevard. In that Church there was love, fellowship, and brotherhood. When you walked out of that Church you felt good; you felt clean. I can't walk into my Church and pray on Sunday mornings like I did then. I have a problem, and my problem is felt by many of you. My kids are gone as are a lot of yours. The rolls of the Sunday School are dwindling, the respect for these kids is gone. I admire and I praise the Sunday School teachers and the staff. They are doing what they feel is best. But when you have kids in Junior High School with mid-terms and they have homework and finals and this school is run the same way -- when we have a priest who is not interested in these kids -- he says he is. "Management," management of what? The Bylaws say supervisor. I think the time has come. Please allow me. I have harbored this in my heart since October. It's too bad...it's too bad for my family and many of your families. We were brought up to be a part of this Church. When kids call, under their breath, Ayatollah, for a man who is supposed to lead this parish. This man -- you know, a few minutes ago I asked a question from Hayr Soorp. I couldn't get a decent answer. I asked a question...

Dr. Papazian interjected and said that unless there is a motion placed on the floor.... Mr. Serkaian interrupted and said he wants to make a motion. He said that according to the Bylaws of the Church, a Parish Priest is to be elected every five years. We have never elected our Parish Priest in the last ten years. For whatever it's worth, I would like to instruct the Parish Council to call a Special Assembly meeting for the purpose of discussing the election of the Parish Priest. That is my motion.

Dr. Papazian said this would have to be taken in two parts: 1) whether or not it goes on the agenda, and 2) the motion itself. He reiterated that at least half the Assembly would have to allow it to go on the agenda. He then asked for a vote by show of hands. Three members voted in favor, almost unanimously the rest of the members opposed it, the motion was defeated, and it was not placed on the agenda.

X. Election Results

The election results were then reported. There were 275 votes cast for this ballot. The Chair announced the results for Parish Council: Arthur Apkarian, Alex Keurejian, Edward H. Korkoian, Arthur S. Mardigian, and Harry Terzian.

Election results for the Nominating Committee were: Hagop Asadurian, Jerry Dayinian, Harry Mardirosian, Kathy Mekjian, and Richard Vahratian.

The Auditing Committee election results were: Robert Aginian, George Laktzian, and Thomas Stambouljian.

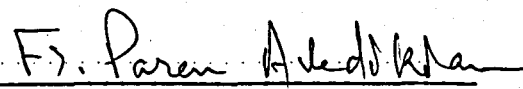
Fr. Paren was then invited by the Chair to give his closing message, followed by the benediction.

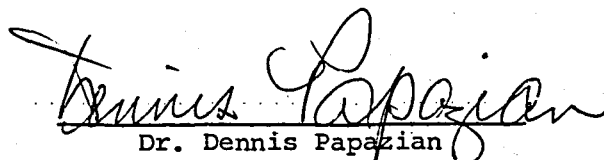
XI. Pastor's Closing Message and Benediction

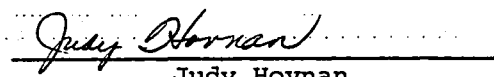
Fr. Paren announced that the annual assembly will be held a few weeks later next year in order to allow more time to prepare the annual booklet as well as to have it in the mail early enough for parishioners to be able to read and study it prior to the assembly. He then thanked everyone who accepted nominations to run for office when asked by the Nominating Committee. He added that hopefully next year when approached everyone will consent to serve the Church which is a great honor and commitment. Fr. Paren also thanked the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee commending them for their service on behalf of the parish. After welcoming and congratulating the new members elected to the various positions, he asked God's blessing on them in undertaking their responsibilities. He additionally thanked the Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Day for their efforts in effectively fulfilling their responsibilities on behalf of the Parish Assembly. Fr. Paren then offered the benediction.

XII. Adjournment.

The Assembly was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.


 Fr. Paren Avedikian
 President


 Dr. Dennis Papazian
 Chairman


 Judy Hovnan
 Secretary