

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT  
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1987

The Assembly was called to order by Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Harry Terzian at 8:05 P.M. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor, offered the invocation.

Mr. Terzian called on the Nominating Committee Chairman, Dr. Edward Sarkisian to present the candidates to the Assembly, and explain the rules for voting. Dr. Sarkisian read the names of the Nominating Committee and expressed his gratitude for the assistance given by the Pastor, Church Staff and many parishioners.

Dr. Sarkisian stated that the Assembly would be voting for Chairman and Secretary for the Parish Assembly; five (5) candidates for Parish Council for two-year term; seven (7) Diocesan Delegates for four-year term; five (5) Nominating Committee candidates for one-year term; three (3) Auditors for one-year term. The Nominating Committee unsuccessfully made every effort to find six candidates for Auditor and two candidates for Secretary of the Day. Dr. Sarkisian then presented the names of the Assembly Chairman and Secretary.

ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

Dr. Gary Zamanigian  
Dr. Dennis Papazian

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY

Marie Danielian

Mr. Terzian asked for additional nominations for Assembly Chairman. There were none. A motion was made, seconded and passed to close nominations. Mr. Terzian asked for nominations for Assembly Secretary. There were none. Mr. Cedric Danielian moved, and it was seconded, that the Assembly Secretary be elected by acclamation. By a show of hands Mrs Danielian was elected Assembly Secretary by acclamation.

Mr. Terzian called for reading of biographical sketches of the Candidates of Assembly Officers. It was moved, seconded and passed to dispense with reading of these sketches.

Dr. Sarkisian presented candidates for Parish Council, 5 to be elected:

Arthur Apkarian  
Alex Chavdarian  
Zaven Dolik  
Vaham Fantazian  
Michael Kaysserian

Edward H. Korkoian  
Kathy Mekjian  
John Noraian  
Osef Saraf  
Archie Yeghissian

Mr. Terzian called for reading of biographical sketches of the candidates. It was moved, seconded and passed to dispense with reading of sketches. Mr. Terzian called for nominations from the floor for Parish Council. Mr. George Kasparian nominated

Mr. Steve Shahinian. There were no further nominations, thus it was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations. Mr. Kasparian was asked to give a biographical sketch of Mr. Shahinian.

Dr. Sarkisian presented the candidates for Diocesan Delegates, 7 to be elected.

Arthur Apkarian	Souren Keolelian	Ashod Torosian
Arthur Barsamian	Arthur Mardigian	Richard Torogian
Artin Cholakian	Dennis Papazian	Archie Yeghissian
Sooren Gozmanian	Victoria Reizian	Gary Zamanigian
Paul Hovsepien	Harry Terzian	

Mr. Terzian asked for nominations for Diocesan Delegate. Mr. Ara Haig nominated Mr. John Semizian. Mr. Terzian called for a reading of biographical sketches of the candidates. It was moved, seconded and passed to dispense with reading of these sketches. Mr. Terzian asked for additional nominations, as there were none, it was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations for Diocesan Delegate. Mr. Haig was asked to give a biographical sketch of Mr. Semizian.

Nominating Committee candidates were presented, 5 to be elected.

Elizabeth Aprahamian	Harry Joboulian	Dolly Matoian
Stephen Dakhlian	Edward Karamanian	Mitzi Negohosian
Barbara Haroutunian	Yvonne Korkoian	Rosalie Papazian
C. Garry Javizian		

Mr. Terzian called for reading biographical sketches. It was moved, seconded and passed to dispense reading of these sketches. Mr. Terzian asked for nominations for nominating Committee Candidates. There were none. It was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations. Mr. Terzian stated new ballots will be prepared in alphabetical order with the names nominated from the floor, which will cause some delay.

Candidates for Auditor were presented, 3 to be elected.

Robert Aginian	John Bahadurian
Armen Asher	Janice Torosian

Mr. Terzian asked to have biographical sketches of the candidates read. It was moved, seconded and passed to dispense with reading the sketches. Mr. Terzian asked for nominations for Auditor. There were none. It was moved, seconded and passed to close nominations for Auditor.

Dr. Sarkisian informed the Assembly that the revised candidates list had been retyped and copies made and were now ready for distribution. He further explained that there were two lists numbered 1 through 50 and 51 through 100, names are in alphabetical order and the ballots indicating these numbers

correspond with the names. If ballots are not marked correctly, they will not be valid. The monitors proceeded to distribute the ballots and candidate lists. Dr. Sarkisian noted that no more than five (5) candidates for Parish Council to be voted; no more than seven (7) for Diocesan Delegates; no more than five (5) for Nominating Committee; and no more than three (3) for Auditor. Ballots will be accepted until 9:30 P.M.

At this time it was noted that a total of 340 parishioners were present and voting.

While the ballots were being distributed Mr. Terzian made some announcements: Monday, March 9, 1987 at 7:30 P.M. the Albion College Choir will have a concert in our Church. A dinner at 5:30 P.M., tickets \$5.50, no charge for concert.

The ACYOA will be hosting the Sports Weekend here in Detroit area on Labor Day Weekend, and asked everyone to support our Church Youth.

The Komitas Choir is hosting the annual Choir assembly in Detroit November 13-15, 1987, it is the 60th Anniversary of the Choir.

Beginning Wednesday, March 4, 1987, Lenten Fish Dinners sponsored by ACYO Juniors will be served, with Church Services following. These fish dinners will continue every Wednesday through Lenten period.

Ladies Auxiliary of St. John's is hosting Vartanantz Dinner and Play on March 1, 1987. The Men's Society is sponsoring a Concert and Dinner on Sunday, March 8, 1987.

Mr. Dan Cristiano made a request that the agenda be amended to add New Business.

Mr. Terzian stated this can only be done by a motion and the Assembly vote. The Bylaws state that new business is brought before the Assembly by majority vote.

Mr. Terzian asked for a motion to accept the minutes of 1986 as presented. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes. Discussion followed. A request was made that proposals presented to the Assembly be made part of the minutes as shown in the Annual Report. Mr. Terzian stated the proposals as approved by the Parish Assembly will be added to the minutes in the official office copy. A motion was made, seconded and passed, to accept the minutes of the 1986 Assembly with the addition.

A parishioner inquired if the proceedings were being tape-recorded. He was advised that the tape was running as an assistance to the Secretary.

Mr. Terzian announced the results for Assembly Chairman and

called Dr. Gary Zamanigian to the Podium.

Dr. Zamanigian thanked the Assembly for their confidence and stated he and Dr. Dennis Papazian ran as co-candidates, and he appointed Dr. Papazian as Vice Chairman of the Assembly and invited him to share the Podium if he wished.

Dr. Zamanigian referred to the Agenda and announced that no oral reports will be given, only questions will be answered.

Mr. Sam Argnian, 1986 Chairman of the Senior Men's Organization referred to the financial statement of that organization on page 47 of the Annual Report and asked Mr. John Bahadurian for clarification of the zero balance as shown for November 30, 1986. Following some discussion, Mr. Bahadurian requested an independent audit; Mr. Paul Bazigian also requested a new audit. Dr. Zamanigian stated a committee will be formed to re-evaluate the report.

Mr. Cristiano referred to page #16 of the Annual Report regarding the New Year's Eve party which showed a figure of \$3,600 profit, then on page #30, net receipts show \$173.00, he requested a clarification.

Mr. Andy Tarpinian responded that the \$3,600 is income for the New Year's Eve Party for December 31, 1986. The income figure of \$173.00 belonged to the year 1985.

Mr. Paul Bazigian referred to page #46 of the Annual Report regarding the 1000 Club Raffle, which showed \$10,000 paid to AGBU and \$7,000 to St. John's Church. He asked for clarification, as this was supposed to be a 50/50 split between the two organizations.

Mr. Souren Keoleian, Treasurer of the 1000 Club Raffle Committee responded the figures are accurate, the split is still 50/50, the School received \$10,000 and so did St. John's in 1986, however St. John's had received more money in 1985 than the School.

Mr. Nerses Serkaian referred to the Pastor's Report in which Hayr Soorp acknowledged the Deacons who had given service to the Church. Mr. Serkaian stated that it would also be nice to make mention to Mr. Masa Caramanian who has served on the altar for many years. Mr. Serkaian also stated his inability to reach Hayr Soorp to administer last rites to his mother-in-law before her death, due to the fact that Hayr Soorp's residence phone is unlisted. Mr. Serkaian also stated that he had to contact personally Der Diran Papazian, to perform the funeral service instead of someone from St. John's. Hayr Soorp responded to Mr. Serkaian's remarks as follows: The Church policy is if anyone wishes to invite another priest to participate in a sacrament or a rite, the individual should contact the Church or the Pastor, and the Pastor will contact the Priest whose services are being

requested. Hayr Soorp was told that Fr. Papazian would alone officiate at the funeral. This information came from the funeral home Helen Armoudlian took the call. When he, the Pastor of the Church found out that he was not welcome to officiate he stepped aside completely so that whoever was being invited would do as he pleased.

Dr. Zamanigian stated that the Chair will accept a motion to receive the 1986 Annual Report.

Mr. Bazigian asked a question regarding the statement on Page #46 of the 1986 Annual Report. He had a 1985 Annual Report showing payment of \$18,000 to the AGBU School and \$18,000 to St. John's under the 1000 Club Raffle. His question - why AGBU received \$10,000 and St. John's \$7,000 in 1986.

Mr. Souren Keolelian referred Mr. Bazigian to the Annual Report through December 31, 1986 to see there was additionally \$25,000 transferred to St. John's Armenian Church. The 1000 Club Raffle Report was through November 30, 1986, but subsequent to November 30, 1986 there was an additional disbursement of \$25,000 to the Church.

Dr. Zamanigian again asked for a motion to accept the 1986 Annual Report. Mr. Ara Haig moved and seconded by Mr. Danielian, and a favorable vote was taken.

Dr. Zamanigian referred to the 1986 Financial Report and asked for any questions. Mr. Andy Tarpinian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, wished to make some comments. He stated last year at this time we showed a deficit of \$76,000. He is happy to report that in 1986 an actual of \$753,759 was realized through the work of all the parishioners, pledge system \$5,485 over budget, rug sale \$13,000 over budget, Bingo operations \$5,600 over budget, contributions by church organizations \$18,350 over budget (Women's Guild contributed \$35,000, the Ladies Auxiliary \$10,000), interest income \$13,467 over budget. On the expenditure side, we ran over by \$32,000, but in spite of the fact that we had a loss of \$76,000 last year, this year we realized \$16,857 excess income over expenditures.

Mr. Tarpinian asked for questions. Mr. Harry Zartarian referred to Page #29 of the Financial Report, under Liabilities, shows Agency Accounts \$48,000 - requests an explanation. Mr. Tarpinian explained Agency Accounts are monies given to the Church by individuals for specific purposes to be spent for purposes at a later time, which the individuals wish. Agency Accounts are not itemized in the report. There are several Agency Accounts.

Mr. Zartarian referred to Page #31 under Contributions, the 1986 actual figure of \$19,472 budgeted was \$2,500. Mr. Tarpinian stated that this figure represented a \$15,000 donation given to the Diocese for the publication of a Sunday School Text Book, the

Diocese is trying to raise \$300,000 to publish text books to be used in the Church Schools.

Mr. Nerses Serkaian referred to Page #29 of the Annual Report, specifically Appropriated for Future Building Maintenance, Current Year Appropriation- asked if this is the In Lieu of Flowers donations \$112,584. Then he referred to Page #53, showing the total as \$112,052.50. Mr. Tarpinian stated they had a carryover of some \$500 from last year. Mr. Serkaian now referred to Pages #50 and #51, Cost of Breakdown of Church, Hall and Recreation Center - wondered why each item did not show the dollar figure, rather than each category showing totals only. Mr. Tarpinian responded that if it is the desire of the Assembly to have these figures shown in the future they will be.

Dr. Zamanigian referred to the 1987 Budget and asked for any questions. Mr. Jack Margosian referred to Page #31, Item #10, Church Supplies, it shows that for the last two years there is an overage but the budget for 1987 is for only \$6,000.

Mr. Tarpinian responded that the publication of the Prayer Books that were sent to parishioners at Christmas was budgeted over a three year period in this line item. Mr. Margosian referred to Item #30, Insurance, noting that the figure was \$16,941 over budget - asked for an explanation.

Mr. Tarpinian responded that liability insurance alone increased \$11,000 last year. Insurance rates are sky-rocketing and we are making every effort to lower insurance costs. We are doing everything possible to cut costs, including increasing our deductibles.

Mr. Souren Keoleian referred to Page #1, Item #45 Summer Camp - shows under 1987 Budget figure of \$2,600, requesting explanation. Mr. Tarpinian stated that we are thinking of hiring people to run summer camp for one, two and three weeks.

Mr. Vicken Demirjian referred to Page #31, Line #6, Jerusalem Patriarchate and #7, Istanbul Patriarchate, asked if these figures of \$1,000 each were our yearly donations. Mr. Tarpinian responded affirmatively.

Dr. Zamanigian asked Dr. Edward Sarkisian for the election results, as they were not ready, he went on to questions.

Mr. Garry Javizian inquired as to when New Business can be brought to the Assembly. Dr. Zamanigian explained that since New Business is not on the Agenda, this can be brought up only after the full Agenda is completed, following the Pastor's closing message and before adjournment. Mr. Javizian felt that New Business should be part of the Agenda and future meetings should take this item into consideration. He was referred to Page #2, under Item #16, which states: "The Agenda of the Parish Assembly shall be prepared by the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

Other matters of new business may be added by majority vote of the Parish Assembly".

Mr. Harry Terzian, Parish Council Chairman, stated that New Business can be brought up as a one-item motion to the assembly, and by majority vote of the Assembly, after the business of the Agenda is concluded. He further stated that the purpose of the meeting is for the Parish Council to make an annual report to the Parish Assembly under Parish Council Report, there is no New Business. The Parish Council has conducted its business and is reporting to the Assembly the activities of 1986, that is what this meeting is all about.

Mr. Javizian inquired at what point in this Assembly do parishioners make a request to the Parish Council, if it is at this time, then it should be on the Agenda.

Mr. Douglas Takessian made comments as to why New Business cannot be part of the Agenda, but noted that since the Bylaws state that this may be added only by majority of the Assembly, then we all have to abide by it.

Mr. Nerses Serkaian stated why not take the language of the Bylaws and abide by it, the matter of New Business may be added by majority vote of this Parish Assembly not questions, nor discussions, but new business.

Dr Zamanigian stated that we're ready for any item of new business at this point if there is a majority support for it.

Mr. Serkaian inquired if he were to introduce as an item of new business the cost breakdown of the items as shown on Pages #50 and #51, does the assembly have to vote upon this? The answer was yes. He further stated that since Mr. Tarpinian said this breakdown would be available next year, would each item be a breakdown for the Church, Hall and the Recreation Center expenditures?

Mr. Terzian responded that the Parish Council is not bound by the promise made by its treasurers; it is not feasible. It is extremely difficult for the Parish Council to decide how much of the insurance is allocated to the Hall, the Church and the Recreation Center. An honest, accurate breakdown of the expense allocation cannot be made, there are no different electric meters, and it is difficult to determine how much electricity is being used when we have a wedding, what is being used in the Church on a Sunday morning, there is no way of knowing how much heat is going into the building, how much to heat the offices, we cannot honestly do it. So, we take a percentage of use. We should, maybe, obtain the services of an expert to see how much is being used for each structure. The ground care is allocated as one third for the Church, one third for the Hall and one third for the Recreation Center. We get a rough idea of what the costs are and try to control it. This Parish Council takes fiscal

responsibility seriously, we try to maximize the services given to the parish at the most reasonable costs, and hope the parish understands and we will try to continue to do the best job possible.

Mr. John Bahadurian was recognized and stated as a member of the Auditing Committee, the breakdown can be done, however, the report would be 50 pages long, the entire report would be meaningless. When a financial statement is read, two things are needed, gross income and net profit, and the report as printed in our report is self-explanatory and gives a good idea where we stand.

Mr. Edward Carman was recognized and referred to Page #31, and wondered about allocations for the museum. Fr. Paren responded that we have not made any provisions, there will not be any expenses this year.

Mr. Edmond Azadian inquired what the general direction of the Church is, where is it going, how do the Diocesan Delegates vote on Church matters and problems confronting our Church, what is happening across the Diocese.

Mr. Terzian responded that the Bylaws have very specific definitions what the Parish Assembly is to do, and one of those is to pass resolutions to be submitted to the Diocesan Assembly. If there were any resolutions it would be brought before this Assembly and we would discuss it now. Neither the Diocesan Delegates nor the Parish Council has brought anything to the Parish Assembly, there is nothing on the agenda of that nature. If there are resolutions to be taken by the delegates, they would certainly take them.

Mr. Vicken Demirdjian inquired about observance of the April 24th day. He understands that on that specific date the Hall is rented for a wedding. He asked why there is to be no observance of this important date. This is a special day to all Armenians throughout the world.

Dr. Zamanigian responded that the Sunday following that date, specifically April 26, 1987 will be observed. The wedding is taking place on April 24th, which is a Friday. April 26th is the official Observance Day.

Mr. Albert Mardirosian was recognized, he noted that there is no report in the Annual Report by the Apostolic Society. He stated that last year a motion was made and passed for the Apostolic Society to provide a financial report.

Fr. Paren responded that later this year at the dedication of the museum and the Library the Apostolic Society will provide a report to the society members.

Mr. Mardirosian inquired about the Suggestion Box which



Margie Simonian brought up as a motion last year.

Dr. Zamanigian responded to date there is no reason why the Suggestion Box idea was not brought forward, and in addition to the April 24th comment, there will be a Suggestion Box.

Mr. Michael Assarian spoke on the April 24th observance and stated that no business should be conducted on this important date.

Dr. Zamanigian noted that this could be made into a motion once the assembly votes to accept the motion and have discussion on it. The issue is whether or not to rent the Hall. He asked Mr. Assarian to state his motion and it will be discussed and voted upon.

Mr. Assarian stated his motion that St. John's Armenian Church of Southfield conduct no business, other than prayer, religious business on April 24th. Mr. Cedric Danielian seconded the motion.

Mr. Terzian questioned Mr. Assarian, if his motion was intended for this year or in 1988. Mr. Assarian responded yes, starting in 1988.

Dr. Zamanigian asked for a vote for Mr. Assarian's motion. Motion passed.

The Chairman then announced the results of the balloting.

For Parish Council the following were elected:

Arthur Apkarian	Kathy Mekjian
Vahram Fantazian	Archie Yeghissian
Edward H. Korkoian	

For Diocesan Delegates the following were elected:

Dr. Paul Hovsepian	Harry Terzian
Arthur S. Mardigian	Richard Vahratian
Dr. Dennis Papazian	Dr. Gary Zamanigian
John Semizian	

For Nominating Committee the following were elected:

Elizabeth Aprahamian	Yvonne Korkoian
Barbara Haroutunian	Rosalie Papazian
Edward Karamanian	

For Auditors the following were elected:

Robert Aginian	John Bahadurian	Janice Torosian
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Number of ballots cast were 340.

Dr. Zamanigian called on Fr. Paren Avedikian to give his closing message, prayer for the deceased and benediction.

Fr. Paren stated he would like to thank those Parish Council members who are leaving, Diocesan Delegates, who served the parish and are leaving, the Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee, and he congratulated the newly-elected members for these positions and wished all the committees well. He referred to other meetings held in the Parish preceding and following Diocesan Assembly and he encouraged the parishioners to participate in these meetings, to take an interest in what is transpiring both in our parish as well as across the Diocese. He referred to the motion passed to observe the April 24th observance on the day, and stated the Church will abide by the wishes of the parishioners. He stated that motions are easy to pass and people become emotionally involved in passing motions, but our actions speak louder than motions. We must bear in mind that when we do observe April 24th that people ought to give support and attend, to take time out from whatever else they are doing that day, to come and respect the memory of our Martyrs. He hopes we will have enough money to bring a group from England that day and to sing the "Life of Christ" in our Church, the conductor is Loris Jicknavorian, a nationally known composer/conductor, who will be bringing the Ambrosian Singers from London to present the "Life of Christ". It might not be the type of April 24th observance we are accustomed to, it will be different but we're hoping that there will be more non-Armenians here and we will be able to publicize the event and the purposes behind it, and we could bring the media in.

Fr. Paren reminded that when parishioners receive Church mail, they must open and read it, not to dispose of it before reading it. He further stated that this is not a political gathering, but he can't help but observe that last year in this parish a new project started in connection with April 24th. A few members of this parish organized a PAC, a Political Action Committee. It failed. We are all interested in our Martyrs, but when it comes to our pockets, we become disinterested. We are dedicated to make sure that everybody knows about our Martyrs, but we deny the money. Every time we make reference to the Jews, how successful they are. They are not successful because they are holding on to the money in their pockets, they are spending it for the proper purposes. Unfortunately, it is very easy to rise and make speeches but April 24th is more than making speeches, it is commitment, it is also a time to spend money.

Fr. Paren informed the Assembly that we will now say a prayer for our parishioners who passed away in the previous year. He asked the assembly to rise and remember all the members of this parish who departed from this world in 1986, and he offered a prayer for them, following which the benediction was given and then Fr. Paren invited all to stay and share the refreshments prepared for this purpose.

The Assembly adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

*Fr. Paren Avedikian*

Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian  
Pastor

*Dr. Gary Zamanigian*

Dr. Gary Zamanigian  
Chairman

*Marie Danielian*

Marie Danielian  
Secretary