

ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES
FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1989

INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER

The Assembly was called to order by Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Edward Korkoian at 8:15 p.m. The Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian, Pastor, offered the invocation.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM

Mr. Korkoian reported that 439 members have been verified as present, which he declared to be a quorum.

ELECTIONS

Mr. Gregory Jamian, Chairman, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Jamian expressed his gratitude to the Pastor and Church Staff for their assistance. He then introduced his committee: Pamela Dayinian, Souren Keoleian, Mary Ryan, and Alice Terzian.

After identifying all of the positions to be elected and explaining the voting procedure, Mr. Jamian then presented the candidates for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary.

ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN

Hon. Y. Gladys Barsamian
Arthur S. Mardigian

ASSEMBLY SECRETARY

Judy Hovnan
Souren Keoleian

Mr. Korkoian asked for additional nominations for Assembly Chairman. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and passed to close nominations. Mr. Korkoian then asked for nominations for Assembly Secretary. There were no additional nominations. It was moved, seconded, and passed that nominations be closed.

Mr. Korkoian called for reading of the biographical sketches of the Candidates for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary. A motion was made, seconded and passed to dispense with the reading of these sketches. Voting then commenced for Assembly Chairman and Assembly Secretary.

Mr. Jamian presented candidates for Parish Council, five (5) to be elected:

Hagop Alexanian
Hagop Asadurian
Peter S. Egigian
*Vahram G. Fantazian
Alberta Godoshian

Andrew Kasper
Ann Laktzian
*Kathy Mekjian
*Sirvart Mezian
Anoush Papelian

Mr. Korkoian asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Parish Council. Mr. Richard Kehyian nominated Dr. Dennis Papazian as a candidate for Parish Council. The nomination was seconded by Vicken Demirdjian. Dr. Papazian declined the nomination. Mr. Jerry Dayinian then nominated Mr. Richard Vahratian as a Parish Council candidate. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Howard Atesian, and Mr. Vahratian accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, it was moved, seconded, and passed to close nominations for Parish Council. A motion was then made, seconded, and passed to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches of the Parish Council candidates.

Nominating Committee candidates were then presented, five (5) to be elected:

Jack Boladian
Ohannes Boyajian
Vicken Demirdjian
Mihran Hoplamazian
C. Garry Javizian

Dr. Neshan Ohanian
Jacqueline Oknayan
John K. Semizian
Mary A. Simonian
Mariann Zamanigian

Mr. Korkoian asked for nominations from the floor for Nominating Committee. There being no nominations, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to close the nominations. Mr. Korkoian called for reading of the biographical sketches. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to dispense with the reading of the sketches.

Candidates for Auditor were then presented, three (3) to be elected:

*Robert Aginian
*John Bahadurian
Yeprem Benguian

Sandra Bourgeois
Edward Karamanian
*Thomas C. Stamboulian

Mr. Jamian advised the Assembly that candidate Yeprem Benguian had withdrawn his name for health reasons. Mr. Korkoian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Auditor. The motion passed. A motion was then entertained to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches of the candidates. The motion was seconded and passed.

ELECTION RESULTS - CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY OF THE DAY

Mr. Korcoian announced the results of the election for Chairman and Secretary of the Day. He called the Honorable Y. Gladys Barsamian, Chairman, and Judy Hovnan, Secretary, to the podium. Judge Barsamian thanked the Assembly for its confidence in her. Ballots were then distributed to the parishioners to vote for the various offices.

MINUTES OF THE 1988 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the Minutes of the 1988 Annual Assembly. A motion was made, second, and carried to accept the Minutes.

1988 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair then brought the 1988 Annual Report to the attention of the Assembly. She asked for any questions or comments regarding the Annual Report. It was moved to accept the 1988 Annual Report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

REVIEW OF 1988 FINANCIAL REPORT

The next item identified by the Chair was the 1988 Financial Report. The floor was turned over to Mr. Chuck Yessaian, Parish Council Treasurer, who announced that a supplemental sheet was being distributed to the Assembly (a copy of which is attached hereto). Mr. Martin Manoogian questioned the figures in the handout of supplemental information as opposed to the figures in the booklet. He stated that they do not agree. He added that he had made a motion three or four years ago that there be a detailed report on each individual building, yet we only have a ballpark figure at this time. Mr. Yessaian responded that this would be taken under advisement of the Parish Council.

Mr. Robert Aginian inquired as to the total amount received for the Earthquake Fund. Mr. Yessaian responded that as of February 28, 1989, the total amount received was \$900,003.47 plus \$12,000 in interest.

The Chair then asked for a motion to accept the 1988 Financial Report. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the 1988 Financial Report as presented.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 1989 BUDGET

The Review and Approval of the 1989 Annual Budget was then brought before the Assembly. Mr. Mitchell Mugurditchian questioned the difference between the 1989 salary expenditure of \$339,454 and the 1988 Actual figure of \$276,551. Mr. Yessaian

reported that the difference is salary increases, professional services, contract services, the youth director's salary, and cost of living.

Mr. Harry Zartarian commented that contract services should not be included in Salaries.

Mr. Martin Cholakian made a motion that the Diocesan Assessment-St. Nersess (Item 8 under Expenditures) be raised by \$4,000 to \$10,000; and this be offset by adding \$4,000 to Building Operations (Item 19 under Income). The motion was seconded. Mr. Cholakian commented that we will need 30 priests in next 10 years, and St. Nersess is our only source of clergymen in this country. As the largest parish, he felt that we ought to be willing to contribute \$10,000.

After considerable discussion, the motion, with the consent of the maker and second, was amended to reflect an increase in Item 8 under Disbursements, Diocesan Assessment-St. Nersess, by \$4,000 to \$10,000 with a decrease in Item 1 under Disbursements, Salaries, of \$4,000. The amended motion was voted on and passed.

Mr. Jamian then announced that the balloting was closed as it was 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Charles Yessaian made a motion that the Parish Assembly increase line Item 25, Appropriation for AGBU School, under Expenditures, from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and increase Income line Item 19, Building Operations-Net, and Income line Item 20, Interest Income, each by \$5,000. He said the Parish Council recommends it, and needs the approval of the Assembly. The motion was seconded, and discussion commenced.

After a period of enthusiastic discussion, Mr. Martin Cholakian moved the question; it was seconded and passed. The motion was then voted on and passed.

It was announced by the Chair that 470 members were in attendance at this Assembly.

The Chair asked for further questions on the proposed budget. A motion was made to close debate. The motion was seconded, and carried.

A motion was then made to accept the proposed budget as amended. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Vahram Fantazian presented a recommendation on behalf of the Parish Council. He explained the purpose of the Neighborhood Development Financial Assistance Program and indicated that \$100,000 had been approved by previous Assemblies for this purpose. To date, there are 14 parishioners with outstanding

balances totalling approximately the \$100,000. The Council asked the Assembly to increase the funds from the present \$100,000 to \$200,000 in this area and, therefore, by consensus of the Assembly, this item was added to the Agenda under New Business.

A motion was made to increase the Secured Loans Receivable item on the Balance Sheet from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for the purpose of expanding the Neighborhood Developmental Financial Assistance Program and to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from Cash on Hand to achieve this increase. The motion was seconded. In the discussion that followed, it was emphasized that this was not an expenditure item, but merely a shift in investments.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the motion was put to a vote and passed.

Mr. Martin Manoogian made a motion that the Parish Council formulate an Operations and Policy Manual to set forth in detail the responsibilities of Parish Council members and committees and the policies of the Parish. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Martin Cholakian pointed out that in order not to set any precedent, the Assembly must vote on to add this item to the Agenda as New Business before we can vote on Mr. Manoogian's motion.

Therefore, a motion was made to add an item to the Agenda called Operations and Policy Manual. The motion was seconded and passed.

The motion to formulate an Operations and Policy Manual was then voted on and carried.

Mrs. Joanne Nassar discussed two areas of concern regarding the Sunday School. She explained that she would like to see an annual meeting of staff members and parents of students. She believed that this would allow for an exchange of ideas and parents would get involved in special projects, etc., if given the opportunity. Mrs. Nassar's second area of concern was the physical set-up of the Sunday School program, which is housed across the parking lot. She explained that this is not only a safety problem but one that does not allow the maximum effort for fellowship and togetherness as a community. It was suggested Mrs. Nassar's presentation be typed up for the Parish Council and the Assembly Secretary be charged to do so.

Mr. Arthur S. Mardigian made a motion to be considered for New Business that it be the policy of St. John's Armenian Church to include in the Annual Report a categorized, detailed, line-by-line item, including individual expenses as well as totals, of all of the Supplemental Information handed out tonight. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken and it was placed on the Agenda.

Mr. Mardigian explained that this information would give everyone the benefit of seeing where our money is being spent so they could attend the meeting and intelligently talk about our financial statement and our budget.

Mr. Richard Torigian addressed the issue of the computer system and its potential for giving the parish the information it is requesting. Dr. Dennis Papazian volunteered to help with that project.

Mr. Martin Manoogian volunteered to share his expertise in computers and accounting.

Then the motion, as earlier stated by Mr. Mardigian, was placed before the Assembly, voted on and passed.

Ms. Elizabeth Roberts asked if the Church has decided when, where and how the money collected for the Earthquake fund will be distributed.

Mr. Edward Korkoian responded that the money has been deposited at the National Bank of Detroit. We are working to get the best interest possible. He explained that we received a phone call from the Diocese on February 22, 1989, from the Vicar-General of the Armenian Diocese, Very Rev. Fr. Khajag Barsamian, who was calling on behalf of His Eminence, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Primate of the Eastern Diocese, informing St. John's Pastor that he was going to Armenia for the next two weeks, and on his return, he will then discuss with us about the monies collected for the Earthquake.

ELECTION RESULTS

The election results were then presented by the Chair:

PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Egigian
Vahram Fantazian
Ann Laktzian
Anoush Papelian
Richard Vahratian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mihran Hoplamazian
C. Garry Javizian
Dr. Neshan Ohanian
John K. Semizian
Mariann Zamanigian

AUDITOR

Robert Aginian
John Bahadurian
Thomas Stamboulian

The Chair then turned the podium over to Fr. Paren for his closing message and prayers.

PASTOR'S CLOSING MESSAGE

Fr. Paren explained that his main message is in the Annual Report. He thanked the Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly as well as the outgoing members of the Parish Council; two who have served for six years, Haig Korkoian and Arthur Apkarian; and two who have served for two years and one year, respectively, Kathy Mekjian and Sirvart Mezian. Fr. Paren thanked the Nominating Committee and Auditors and congratulated all who were elected this evening. Fr. Paren expressed his thanks to the Assembly, both for its conduct during the meeting and for its attendance. He expressed his desire to see this type of response every Sunday in Church.

Fr. Paren expressed his delight in Joanne Nassar's comments regarding the interest that parents have shown relative to the Sunday School. He felt that that was not the case a few years ago. The Open Houses that used to take place were not successful; therefore, they were discontinued. He explained that they had a staff meeting a few weeks ago, which he believes is the best staff meeting that has ever taken place. As far as the issue of bringing all functions in the complex under one roof, Fr. Paren felt that that was a large undertaking at this time but expressed the hope that it would become a reality.

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED AND BENEDICTION

Fr. Paren asked the Assembly to rise for a prayer for the deceased members of our community who passed away in 1988, which was followed by the benediction.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. The Assembly adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Fr. Paren Avedikian

Very Rev. Fr. Paren Avedikian
Pastor

Y. Gladys Barsamian
Hon. Y. Gladys Barsamian
Chairman

Judy Hovnan
Judy Hovnan
Secretary