ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1995

I. INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER

The Parish Assembly ("Assembly") was called to order by the President, The Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian, Pastor, at 7:45 PM. Fr. Baret offered the Invocation and the **Prayer for the Deceased** for those members of the Parish who died in 1994/1995. Prayers for His Holiness, Vasken I, will be conducted prior to the Benediction. Fr. Baret explained that the Assembly is to chaired by the 1994 Parish Assembly Officers until the 1995 Parish Assembly Officers are elected. Since the Hon. John Jamian couldn't be present, Fr. Baret asked Edward H. Korkoian, Parish Council Chairman to chair the meeting and Gloria L. Korkoian to take minutes.

II. VERIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM

Mr. Edward H. Korkoian asked the Assembly if he should reviewed the rules & regulations governing the Assembly in their entirety.

A MOTION was made to dispense with the reading of the rules & regulations governing the Assembly, which were presented on page 2 of the Annual Report. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

Mr. Korkoian reported that the members present had been verified and constituted a quorum with 191 registered members at 7:45 PM.

A MOTION was made to legalize the Parish Assembly. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

Mr. Korkoian announced that:

- Balloting would require three ballot cards, which were given to registered members.
- There are errors on pages 29 through 39 in the printed Annual Report and corrected sheets were passed out to all registered members. Copies are available at the dias. (Addendum 1)
- A Proposal Clarification Sheet on the Level of Dues Established has been passed out and is also available at the dias. (Addendum 2)
- A Survey has been handed out and the Parish Council would appreciate all members to complete it and return it to the Parish Council at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Korkoian offered the Parish Council's appreciation to Edward Bedikian, Auditor, for the 60 hours plus that he devoted to helping the Parish Council prepare the Financial 1 Statements. He expressed the Parish Council's sympathy to the family of Martin Manoogian and said that the Parish feels the deep loss of such a devoted member and Auditor.

Mr. Korkoian announced that tonight would be the last evening with us by Marta Elhouri, Church Secretary. He extended the Parish Council's sincere thanks for her good work and wished her well in her future endeavors.

He told the Assembly that the outgoing Parish Council Treasurer, Richard Vahratian, who has served on the Parish Council for 6 years, although ill, has maintained daily contact with the Church Office from his hospital bed to see that the Parish business runs well. On behalf of the Parish Council, Mr. Korkoian thanked Mr. Vahratian and wished him speedy recovery.

III. ELECTIONS

Mr. Korkoian identified the positions to be filled. He thanked the Nominating Committee for their efforts in preparing the slate of nominees and introduced its chairman, Marilyn Boladian.

Ms. Boladian introduced the Nominating Committee: Alice Derderian, Jackie El Chemmas, Nancy Mouradian and Mickey Mardirosian. She thanked them and all the volunteers who assisted the Committee: the Church secretaries, Helen Armouldian and Marta Elhouri, Lisa Mardigian for setting up the Candidates Photo Presentation, Arthur Barsamian for taking the photos of the candidates, Dr. Richard Marburger for providing the ballot scanning machine and the Ballot Monitors. She identified the positions for election and explained the candidate selection process and voting procedures. Ms. Boladian reported that the Nominating Committee tried to have 2 candidates for each position on the ballot, but they found it very difficult to get parishioners to place their names on the ballot.

Mr. Korkoian announced that the balloting would take place until 9:30 PM and that the time was incorrectly reported in the Annual Report.

ELECTION OF PARISH ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY

Ms. Boladian asked Dr. Dennis Papazian to come forward for introduction. Mr. Korkoian asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

A MOTION was made to close nominations for Chairman of the Day. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

SECRETARY OF THE DAY

The nominee, Gloria Korkoian, was asked to come forward for introduction. Mr. Korkoian asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

A MOTION was made to close the nominations. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

Ms. Boladian presented the candidates for Parish Assembly Officers.

Chairman of the Day:

Dr. Dennis Papazian

Secretary of the Day:

Gloria Korkoian

A MOTION was made to dispense with the reading of the biographical sketches for all candidates. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

A MOTION was made to elect the Parish Assembly Officers by a vote of acclamation. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The Parish Assembly Officers were asked to take their places at the dias and to assume their duties.

PARTIAL ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS (5)

Ms. Boladian presented the slate of 9 candidates for five (5) Parish Council positions. Dr. Papazian asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Dr. Papazian explained that according to the Diocesan By-Laws there must be two candidates for each position up for election.

Arthur Mardigian made a MOTION that the 1995 Parish Assembly go on record that the Nominating Committee made every effort to fill the slate for Parish Council Members with two candidates for each position and that the Assembly accepts the slate of nine (9) candidates. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION was made to close nominations. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The candidates were then introduced.

Sarkis Aglamishian Michael Blakian Edward H. Korkoian* Laura Negosian Elizabeth Roberts Gayle Sarkisian **
Kazar Terterian*
Dickran Toumaian

* Incumbent

Onnig Boyajian

** Not Present

DIOCESAN DELEGATES (7)

Ms. Boladian presented the slate of 12 candidates for seven (7) Diocesan Delegates. Dr. Papazian asked for nominations from the floor. There was one: Kathy Mekjian, who was asked to join the other candidates for introduction.

Arthur Mardigian made a MOTION that the 1995 Parish Assembly go on record that the Nominating Committee made every effort to fill the slate for Diocesan Delegates with two candidates for each position and that the Assembly accepts the slate of thirteen (13) candidates. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION was made to close nominations. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The candidates were introduced.

Guy Amboian Edward H. Korkoian Dr. Dennis Papazian*

Arthur Apkarian* Arthur S. Mardigian* Dr. Edward Sarkisian**

Elizabeth Aprahamian Kathy Mekjian Harry Terzian*

Howard Atesian Richard Norsigian* Dr. Gary Zamanigian*

Vahram Fantazian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5)

Ms. Boladian presented the slate of five (5) candidates for five (5) Nominating Committee positions. Marian Iafrate withdrew her name prior to the meeting. Dr. Papazian asked for nominations from the floor. There were three: Garry Javizian, Yeretzkin Rosalie Papazian and Alberta Godoshian. They were asked to join the other candidates for introduction.

Arthur Mardigian made a MOTION that the 1995 Parish Assembly go on record that the Nominating Committee made every effort to fill the slate for Nominating Committee Members with two candidates for each position and that the Assembly accepts the slate of eight (8) candidates. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION was made to close nominations. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The candidates were introduced.

Diane Alexanian ** Alberta Godoshian Ytz. Rosalie Papazian Nancy Banks** Garry Javizian Mary Ryan

Judy Hovnanian Johno Noraian

** Not Present

AUDITING COMMITTEE (1)

Ms. Boladian was not able to present a slate of 3 candidates for one (1) Auditing Committee position. Dr. Papazian asked for nominations from the floor. After considerable effort one candidate accepted nomination: Mihran Hoplamazian.

Arthur Mardigian made a MOTION that the 1995 Parish Assembly go on record that the Nominating Committee made every effort to fill the slate for the Auditing Committee Member with two candidates for the position and that the Assembly accepts the slate of one (1) candidate. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION was made to close nominations. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The candidate was introduced.

Mihran Hoplamazian

A MOTION was made to close nominations for Parish Council, Diocesan Delegates, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee and vote on the slates as presented. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The Nominating Committee was asked to prepare the ballots to reflect the nominations from the floor. Dr. Papazian thanked the Nominating Committee for a job well done under difficult circumstances.

IV. ELECTION RESULTS - PARISH ASSEMBLY OFFICERS

Since the Officers were elected by a vote of acclamation, they took their positions immediately after their election. Dr. Papazian took over the duties of chairing the meeting from Mr. Korkoian. Dr. Papazian expressed words of appreciation to the Assembly and to the Nominating Committee on his and Miss Korkoian's behalf.

V. MINUTES OF THE 1993 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Chairman stated that proper notice has been sent to Parishioners announcing that the 1994 Minutes were available upon request at the Church Office. He then asked for a motion to ratify the 1994 Minutes.

A MOTION was made to dispense with the reading of the 1994 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes and to ratify them as the official record of the 1994 Parish Assembly. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. 1994 ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman stated that the Reports would not be read in their entirety since they have been published in the Annual Report. He asked for question on the Reports page by page.

Pastor's Report

There being no questions, a MOTION was made to accept the Pastor's Report. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

Parish Council Report

Joanne Nassar questioned the \$3,000 expenditure noted on page 16 under Social Concern Fund and the line item 22 amount of \$6,091 on page 25. Edward Korkoian responded that the amount of \$3,000 on page 16 was a typographical error and should have read \$6,000. Fr. Baret spoke briefly about the activities of the fund.

Joanne Nassar asked for clarification of the Parish's right to raise funds for Food for Armenia in light of the Diocesan Directive that all such fund raising should be done

through FAR. Fr. Baret stated that each Parish is to be responsive to and fulfill the programs directed by the Diocese and that there is not directive from the Diocese that precludes a Parish from having it own fund raising program.

Albert Mardirosian asked why the outstanding \$45,000 for assistance to six parishioners stated the **Neighborhood Development** on page 14 is different from the amount of \$37,412 in the Balance sheet under **Contract Receivable** on page 22. Edward Bedikian stated that the difference is accrued interest, which the Church doesn't recognize until it is collected.

Albert Mardirosian had questions on the **Social Concern Fund**: how much came in and how much was expended? Dr. Papazian responded that the policy is to keep this information confidential so that the recipients won't be embarrassed.

Albert Mardirosian requested that a detailed report on income and expenditures be presented next year on the **Social Concern fund**. Discussion followed on the reported amounts on page 16 and page 22. The Balance Sheet shows net figures.

Discussions on the Reports was halted for 20 minutes while the Nominating Committee and Ballot Monitors passed out ballots at 8:45 PM. The Assembly was informed that balloting would end a 9:30 PM.

Joanne Nassar questioned Hall Usage on page 11 and pointed out that the rentals to other organizations increased from 41 in 1993 to 45 in 1994 and that the profit shown in line item 16 on page 24 shows \$13,000 for 1993 and \$46,000 for 1994. Why a 300% increase for 4 more rentals? Armen Hovnanian explained the figures on page 24 reflect catch up amounts from previous years, mainly 1993, that were paid in 1994.

Marianne Dardarian asked about the **Acolyte Program**. Richard Norsigian, Sunday School Superintendent, explained that Carol Palaian has been appointed Acolyte Coordinator and that she and Richard spoke to the Junior and Senior Department classes about the program. A meeting will be set in the near future and letters will be sent to all young men to join the program, which will have a training program for all new acolytes.

Marianne Dardarian asked about the **Parent Volunteer Program**. Richard Norsigian stated that they awaiting the appointed coordinator's acceptance of the position. When the Coordinator is in place, they will inform the parents about the program.

Carol Palaian voiced her concern about the way Sunday School students take Holy Communion. There appears to be a lack of direction from the Sunday School teachers on the proper way of taking confession and receiving Communion. Richard Norsigian responded that they will continue to teach the students proper etiquette.

At 9:30 PM, the balloting was officially closed. 269 registered members cast ballots.

Marianne Dardarian asked if it was an oversight that the Halloween Party sponsored by the Mr. & Mrs. Society on October 30th in the Recreation Center was not include in the Annual Report. Bob Simonian responded that even though it was put on by the Mr & Mrs. Society, the Society is inactive. Armen Hovnanian responded that it was an oversight

and that it was a Church function. The net profit of \$425 was treated as rental income and is grouped in the Recreation Center Rental.

Arthur Mardigian noted that page 8 shows 731 members and asked if membership is on the decline. Guy Amboian stated that as of December 31, 1994 that 731 members had paid the minimum pledge of \$100.00. 1,050 members pay below the minimum (students/widows/widowers). The parish also carries members, who are in arrears for two years, on the membership list. Dr. Vincent Baylerian presented an analysis of the membership role: couples (321)/singles (260) pay the minimum pledge of \$350/\$175 respectively, and couples (45)/singles (56) pay over the minimum, and the number of couples (74)/singles (90) who haven't paid anything in 1994.

Marianne Dardarian commented that based on Annual Reports from 1990-1994, we have lost membership and that in 1990 our reported membership was 200 higher. She added with 300 students in Sunday School that there are only 45 members in Project Youth and 53 in the ACYO Seniors. Lisa Mardigian, Church Youth Director, responded that Detroit has the largest and strongest ACYO organization and very strong representation at the Annual Archbishop's Sports Weekend. There are 120 on the list and 40 have paid \$10.

Dr. Papazian stated the concerns are well expressed and that membership is affected by changing demographics and complex situations. The problem can't be solved tonight, but the concerns are noted and will be worked on.

James Stamboulian asked why the **Strategic Planning Committee** that met at least six times to address the concerns and issues of the Parish was not reported in the 1994 Annual Report.

Edward H. Korkoian stated that the **Strategic Planning Committee** was mentioned in the report, but that the Committee's six page Report will be published in its entirety in the next issue of the **Torchbearer**.

James Stamboulian asked what the next steps would be for the Strategic Planning Committee. Fr. Baret responded that the Committee Report will be printed and that the Parish Council will proceed after analyzing the Report in the Torchbearer.

Roseann Manoogian Attar asked why the Committee Report is being published after the fact and not presented to this Assembly? Edward H. Korkoian responded that the **Strategic Planning Committee** submitted the Report to the Parish Council. A 2 page report was published in the January/February **Torchbearer**.

There being no other questions, a MOTION was made to accept the Parish Council Report. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

VII. REVIEW OF 1994 FINANCIAL REPORT

Arthur Mardigian questioned line item 6 on page 24 - \$43,275 for In Lieu of Flowers. He pointed out that the 1994 approved budget was for \$743,500 and the In Lieu of Flowers amount was not part of it. The Parish Council owes the Assembly the right to vote on major changes in the direction/use of the In Lieu of Flowers account. Dr.

Papazian told Mr. Mardigian to address this under New Business.

Elizabeth Roberts questioned the increase in **Travel**, shown on page 25, line item 12, which increased from \$2,313 in 1994 to \$5,000 for 1995. Fr. Baret responded that the increase in **Travel** is to cover expense to be incurred this year for travel to Etchmiadzin for the election of the new Catholicos.

Elizabeth Roberts questioned the increase in Visiting Clergy, shown on page 25, line item 13, which increased from \$2,550 in 1994 to \$10,000 in 1995. Fr. Baret stated that the increase in the Visiting Clergy line item is to cover expenses for visiting clergymen, while Fr. Baret is out of the country/out of town and also to allow Fr. Baret more time to visit the Sunday School Classes.

Elizabeth Roberts questioned the \$1,000 expenditures listed on page 25 in line items 15 and 16 for Library Expense and Museum Expense and asked why they weren't covered by the Apostolic Society? Armen Hovnanian stated that those budgeted amounts are to cover incidental equipment failures. He pointed out that the main hall is cooled by the Museum's air conditioning system and when it fails, it needs to repaired immediately so that the hall will have air conditioning, especially on rental days. Howard Atesian replied that the majority of the expenses are allocated to the Apostolic Society, but that we budget for misc. expenses. The Church uses both facilities and the budgeted amount is not unreasonable to the total cost.

Kathy Mekjian questioned the Apostolic Society's Allocation on page 25 of \$65,535 for 1995 and asked if we had received the 1994 Allocation of \$65,536 or 1993's Allocation?

Fr. Baret explained that a joint meeting will take place in the very near future with Richard Manoogian and members of the Apostolic Society and Parish Council to discuss the Allocations and to authorize payment to the Parish.

Kathy Mekjian asked why line item 40, St. Nersess wasn't in the Budget. Dr. Papazian asked her to bring it up when we discuss the 1995 Budget.

Joanne Nassar referring to page 25, line item 1, Salaries, noted that the Salary line was under budget and that last year the discussion was held on the need of an Assistant Pastor and requested a report on the issue. Fr. Baret responded that we do need an Assistant Pastor, but for the time being, he was taking on more responsibility. He is looking for an Assistant Pastor.

Harry Andonian questioned the **Diocesan Assessment** of \$90,000 and asked what do we get for it. Fr. Baret responded that we get our fair share.

Harry Terzian had questions on page 27, In Lieu of Flowers' new policy of 25% going to administration fee. Armen Hovnanian explained that the Church takes 25% off the top and the balance is divided between other organizations.

A member had questions on the Fine Arts' Cash on Hand balance of \$24,000 and why it hadn't been transferred from the bank to the Parish. Jack Kazanjian, chairman of the Fine Arts Committee, stated the Committee is a Parish Council Committee and not an

organization. It was formed to promote Armenian artists. The profits at every Bazaar go to the Church. The profits from art shows held outside the Annual Bazaar are kept in a separate budget and are earmarked to buy designated items for the Church, namely to commission two Side Altar paintings.

There being no other questions, a MOTION was made to accept the Financial Report. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

VIII. 1995 BUDGET

Kathy Mekjian Made a MOTION to add \$5,000 to line item 40, St. Nersess. The MOTION was seconded.

Discussion was held. A Parishioner asked where was the money coming from. Kathy Mekjian pointed out that the Budget wasn't balanced and there is an anticipated excess of \$25,000. Debate followed.

A member Called the Question. A vote was taken to close debate. The Chairman then called for a vote on the MOTION. The MOTION to add \$5,000 to line item 40, St. Nersess was voted on and PASSED 70 to 52.

A MOTION was made and seconded to amend the proposed 1995 Budget by increasing Expenditures by adding \$5,000 to line item 40, St. Nersess with a new Expenditures total of \$806,250. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

John Semizian spoke briefly on **Bingo** and commented that those who voted to increase the Budget, should volunteer one week a year to help at Thursday Night Bingo.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Papazian announced that all motions made under New Business will require a majority vote to be placed on the Agenda.

Harry Zartarian asked what happened to the Farm Project in Armenia? Fr. Baret stated that he will attempt to look into the project when he goes to Armenia for the National Ecclesiastical World Assembly, which will convene April 3rd 1995.

Elizabeth Aprahamian gave an emotional and moving commentary regarding the Farm Project.

Edmond Azadian asked how our Delegates (Fr. Baret, Dr. Papazian & Harry Terzian) for the National Ecclesiastical World Assembly, which will convene April 3rd 1995 will vote. Dr. Papazian stated that there are many candidates and that they are looking at the candidate profiles. It is a heavy responsibility and they will vote for the best candidate.

Elizabeth Roberts wanted to know why last year's Parish Assembly wasn't canceled due to the snowstorm. Fr. Baret responded that according to the Diocesan By-Laws a quorum was present and that it was a legal Assembly.

Elizabeth Roberts made a MOTION that the Diocesan By-Laws be amended to raise the quorum minimum from 50 to a larger number for larger Parishes. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and DEFEATED.

Carol Aprahamian asked about the Mercy Mission to Armenia on page 5 of the Annual Report. Was the \$200,000 all for Food for Armenia? Fr. Baret responded that if was for different categories: Food for Armenia and Food for Karabagh.

A MOTION was made to add to New Business the new policy and administrative fee for In Lieu of Flowers. The MOTION was seconded, voted and PASSED (71 to 49).

A MOTION was made to add to New Business the proposal for Clarification of Dues Levels. The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

The Agenda for New Business is as follows:

- 1. 1995 In Lieu of Flowers Policy
- 2. Clarification of Dues Levels

A MOTION was made that the 25% Administration Fee for In Lieu of Flowers be directed to the Building Maintenance Fund instead of the General Fund. The MOTION was seconded.

Debate followed.

The MOTION was voted on and PASSED.

Discussion was held on the 1995 Policy change from Family's Wishes to Donor's Wishes.

Arthur Apkarian asked for an explanation of the new policy from the Parish Council. Kazar Terterian explained the reasoning behind the policy and stated that the Church should come first for In Lieu of Flowers donations.

Charlene Apigian asked for clarification on the policy. She had requested that all In Lieu of Flowers donations for her mother be split between the Church and the Komitas Choir. Were her wishes going to be honored? The response was the split would only happen if the check was made out to the Komitas Choir or made out to St. John's and Komitas Choir was noted in the memo section.

A MOTION was made to resume the old policy according to Family wishes for In Lieu of Flowers. The MOTION was seconded.

Howard Atesian spoke for the motion stating that distributions were made every six months and it can be retroactive to 1/1/95. Debate followed.

Barbara Haroutunian Called the Question. A vote was taken to close debate.

The MOTION to resume the old policy according to Family wishes for In Lieu of Flower was voted on and PASSED.

A MOTION was made that full-time students, ages 18-25, pay \$25 minimum dues and those on limited incomes pay \$75 minimum dues and that the Pastor can grant minimums for exceptional hardship cases. The MOTION was seconded.

Debate followed.

There being no further discussion, the MOTION was voted on and PASSED.

Point of Order was made by Fr. Baret. He stated that, as the Parliamentarian, the In Lieu of Flower motion was out of order because the Assembly passed the 1995 Budget first and this motion changes the line item for anticipated income from In Lieu of Flowers. It should be addressed next year.

Discussion followed.

Garry Javizian wanted to know how the Parish Council predicted the Budget amount.

Arthur Apkarian commented that if the Policy hadn't been kept a secret, the topic would have been addressed under the 1995 Budget.

Arthur Mardigian made a MOTION to amend the In Lieu of Flowers motion to read "that the 25% Administration fee be directed to the Building Maintenance Fund instead of the General Fund and to be made effective after this fiscal year in 1996". The MOTION was seconded, voted on and PASSED.

X. **ELECTION RESULTS**

The Chairman announced the election results and congratulated the new members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

Parish Council:

Michael Blakian

Kazar Terterian Dickran Toumajan

Onnig Boyajian Edward Korkoian

Diocesan Delegates:

Guy Amboian

Arthur Mardigian Richard Norsigian

Elizabeth Aprahamian Vahram Fantazian

Harry Terzian

Edward Korkoian

Nominating Committee:

Diane Alexanian

Ytz. Rosalie Papazian

Judy Hovnanian

Mary Ryan Garry Javizian

Auditing Committee:

Mihran Hoplamazian

XI: PASTOR'S CLOSING MESSAGE AND BENEDICTION

Fr. Baret conducted prayers for His Holiness, the late Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

He thanked the Parish Assembly Officers, Dr. Dennis Papazian and Gloria Korkoian and congratulated all who were elected to the Parish Council, Diocesan Delegates, Nominating and Auditing Committee members. He thanked the outgoing Parish Council and Committee Members. He thanked everyone for their views, advice and dedication to the Parish. Fr. Baret praised the Assembly and thanked all who came today and stressed that we all are serving one purpose - our Church. He stated that we are a family and let us grow and be better.

He concluded with the Benediction.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Parish Assembly adjourned at 12:05 AM

Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian

President

Dr. Dennis Papazian Chairman, Parish Assembly

Gloria L. Korkoian

Secretary, Parish Assembly