

**ST. JOHN'S ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER DETROIT**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1998**

**I. INVOCATION AND CALL TO ORDER**

The Parish Assembly ("Assembly") was called to order by the Chairman of the 1997 Assembly Ms. Gloria Korkoian at 7:45 PM. The minutes were recorded by Mrs. Jane Hovsepian, Secretary of the Parish Council, until the Secretary of the Day was elected. Alex Alexanian, 1997 Secretary of the Day, could not be present tonight due to university commitments. Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, offered the Invocation calling for unity, vision, wisdom, charity and cooperation. Miss Korkoian explained that the Assembly is to be chaired by the 1997 Parish Assembly Officers, until the 1998 Parish Assembly Officers are elected.

Miss Korkoian welcomed the parishioners and expressed her appreciation for their attendance. In the absence of a pastor, Parish Council Chairman Edward Korkoian will be the President of the Assembly according to the Diocesan Bylaws.

**II. VERIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM**

Gloria Korkoian read the Diocesan By-laws' definition on what constitutes a quorum: the presence of 1/3 of the eligible voters or 50 members shall constitute a quorum and decisions should be rendered by majority vote. Gloria Korkoian stated that there are clearly more than 50 members present and if there are no objections from the Assembly, the Secretary will record that a quorum is present at 7:55 P.M. There being no objections, a quorum is declared present.

Gloria Korkoian stated that the eligibility of members had been verified by the Parish Council as parishioners registered.

At 7:45 PM there were clearly more than 50 eligible members present.

At 8:15 PM there were 217 registered members present.

At 9:30 PM, when balloting was closed, there were 223 eligible members present.

Miss Korkoian reviewed the Rules & Regulations governing Membership and the Parish Assembly as outlined on page 2 of the 1997 Annual Report. Only paid members can speak and vote during the Assembly. Guests cannot speak. She reiterated that when you walked in you were presented with three 3x5 cards showing your eligibility for voting.

**III. ELECTIONS**

Gloria Korkoian introduced Ara Ekizian, Chairman of the 1997 Nominating Committee, to conduct the Election of the Parish Assembly Officers. Mr. Ara Ekizian introduced the Members of the Nomination Committee - Richard Baylerian, Agnes Dourjalian, George Kurajian, and Steve Dakhlian and thanked them for their participation and assistance.

**ELECTION OF PARISH ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY**

Ara Ekizian asked the candidates Arthur Apkarian and Gloria Korkoian to come forward for introduction. Ara Ekizian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations for Chairman of the Day were closed. He asked that we dispense with the reading of the biographies. There being no objections, the biographies were not read.

**SECRETARY OF THE DAY**

Jane Toomajian was asked to come forward for introduction. Mr. Ekizian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, the nominations for Secretary of the Day were closed. He asked that we dispense with the reading of the biographies. There being no objections, the biographies were not read.

Mr. Ekizian presented the candidates for Parish Assembly Officers.

Chairman of the Day: Arthur A. Apkarian and Gloria Korkoian

Secretary of the Day: Jane Toomajian

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

The balloting rules were explained. There being no questions on the balloting process, the ballots were **PASSED** out.

While the ballots were being counted, Miss Korkoian announced that all new business items to be put on the Agenda should be made in writing and submitted to the Chairman. If any items involve expenditures of money you funding must be provided because a balanced budget is being presented.

**ELECTION RESULTS - ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**

Mr. Ekizian announced the election results and congratulated the Officers:

Chairman of the Day: Gloria Korkoian

Secretary of the Day: Jane Toomajian

The 1998 Officers took their positions. Ms. Gloria Korkoian thanked the Assembly for their confidence. She extended the gratitude of the elected officers to the Assembly.

**AUDITING COMMITTEE (1)**

Mr. Ekizian presented a slate of two candidates for one (1) position. Mr. Mihran Hoplamazian asked that his name be withdrawn. Ms. Gloria Korkoian reminded the Assembly that we are supposed to have a full slate of candidates per the Diocesan Bylaws and asked Mr. Hoplamazian if he would stay on the slate. Mr. Hoplamazian agreed to stay on the slate and recommended Mrs. Evie Ezmerlian be elected by the Assembly.

The candidates were introduced:

Evie Ezmerlian

Mihran Hoplamazian \*

\*Incumbent

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

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE (5)**

Mr. Ara Ekizian presented a slate of 5 candidates for five (5) positions. Mr. Ekizian asked for nominations from the floor reminding the Assembly that 10 candidates are required to comply with the Diocesan By-laws. There were none.

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

The candidates were introduced:

Dr. Gary Assarian  
Yerchanig Joy Callan  
Pamela Dayinian  
Kathy Mekjian  
Dr. Dennis Papazian

A **MOTION** was made that since there are only five candidates for five Nominating Committee positions that the slate be accepted by acclamation. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

**PARTIAL ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS (6)**

Mr. Ekizian presented the slate of (9) candidates for six (6) Parish Council positions. Gloria Korkoian reminded the Assembly that per the Diocesan By-laws we must have 2 candidates for each position. For 6 positions, we should have 12 candidates.

Ara Ekizian asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

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

A **MOTION** was made to accept the slate of candidates as presented by the Nominating Committee. The **MOTION** was seconded, discussed, voted on and **PASSED**.

The Candidates were introduced:

Howard Atesian \*  
Judge Gladys Barsamian  
Dr. Vincent Baylerian \*  
Judy Hovnan  
Jane Hovsepian \*  
Michael Kaysserian  
Mary Keoleian \*  
Laura Negosian  
Dr. Gary Zamanigian \*           \* Incumbent

Mr. Ekizian thanked the Assembly and stated they have chosen a very good slate. Ballots were distributed to vote for members of the PARISH COUNCIL and AUDITING COMMITTEE.

**IV. MINUTES OF THE 1997 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

Gloria Korkoian asked the Assembly if they had any questions on the 1997 Minutes. Copies of the 1997 Minutes were available on April 1, 1998 in the Church Office for all parishioners.

A **MOTION** was made to dispense with the reading of the 1997 Annual Parish Assembly Minutes and to ratify them as the official record of the 1997 Parish Assembly. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**.

**V. 1997 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chair stated that the Reports would not be read, but that all questions would be answered by the Parish Council or appropriate auxiliary members. Gloria Korkoian asked for questions on the Reports page by page.

Sooren Gozmanian asked questions on the fund established for Armenia aid. He stated that he did not see any reference to it and questioned what happened to the moneys collected for it. Andy Tarpinian, Parish Council Treasurer, addressed the question. The fund is called St. John's

Relief Armenian Fund. In the absence of a Pastor, a report was not written this year and is therefore not included. The balance sheet on page 20 explains what was realized and distributed.

Kazar Terterian noted that even though there was no Pastors Report, there should have been a report on the number of weddings, baptism and funerals that were performed in 1997. Mr. Korkoian stated that the annual statistics for 1997 would appear in the next Torch Bearer.

John Semizian asked if the Parish can designate the distribution from Very Rev. Fr. Paren's Endowment Fund. Mr. Korkoian replied that distribution can only be designated by Fr. Paren.

There were no questions on the Parish Council, Pledge Report, Church Owned Property, Senior Citizens Luncheons or Church Picnic Reports.

There was discussion on the Bingo Committee. Bingo Committee members stated a need for a chairman and co-chairman, as well as volunteers. It was asked if we cannot get workers do we still have Bingo. It was pointed out that Bingo realizes a \$30,000 profit and if Bingo is taken out of the Budget then it is up to this Assembly to figure how we are going to make up that income.

A parish member commended the Bingo Committee for their dedication and the two co-chairmen of the 1997 Annual Bazaar for a successful 1997 Bazaar.

In reference to the report on St. John's Armenian Church Edward and Helen Mardigian Library, Mrs. Mazlounian asked if the Library was being used. Mr. Korkoian stated it is being used, maybe not by the greater number of individuals that we would expect.

No questions were asked on Fun and Fund Raising, St. John's Basketball, and In Lieu of Flowers Reports.

Mr. Mirhran Hoplamazian spoke about the Neighborhood Development Report. He was concerned that we are renovating/making additions to the Church complex, but not budgeting money to help Armenians purchase homes in the neighborhood. Mr. Tarpinian explained why the Parish Council decided to stop the Neighborhood Development Program. It was a matter of lack of payment on the part of some people who took out the loans.

Gloria Korkoian announced at 9:25 that balloting will close at 9:30 and asked for all registered voters, who have not voted, to please do so.

There were no questions on Building Report, Teas, and Armenian Artifacts Reports.

Youth Coordinator Report: Barbara Haroutunian, asked if it would be possible to extend the one week summer camp to two weeks since it was so well received. She also complimented Lisa Mardigian for doing an outstanding job as Youth Director. Lisa Mardigian responded that the staff for HYE Camp is all volunteers and did not see how they could staff for two weeks under this program.

Gloria Korkoian announced that the balloting officially closed at 9:30 with 223 voting members present.

It was noted that the Pastors Report was not included as it had not been prepared and submitted to the Parish Council.

There were no questions or observations regarding the balance of the reports. A **MOTION** was made by Walter Negosian and seconded by Sam Arslanian to accept the 1997 reports as written. The **MOTION** was voted on and **PASSED**.

#### **VI. CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Mirhan Hoplamazian requested a change to the distribution of the In Lieu of Flowers Fund to include any other organizations or designation by the family of the Deceased. Mr. Arthur Mardigian, Parish Council Member, addressed Mr. Hoplamazian's request stating that it is insufficient as it stands, as the policy was approved by this Parish Assembly and that the motion alone would affect every provision of the policy. The entire policy must be rewritten. He suggested that Mr. Hoplamazian rewrite the entire policy and present next year as New Business.

Gloria Korkoian reported that there were no New Business items to be added to the Agenda.

#### **VII. REVIEW OF 1997 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Chair asked for questions on the 1997 Financial Report.

Mary Ann Artinian asked if the St. John's Armenian Relief Fund had been audited? The response from the Parish Council was yes and that it appears in the Annual Report.

There was considerable discussion of how the moneys were collected and distributed and the accountability of money distributed. Mr. Tarpinian stated that reports were presented with receipts. Mr. Tarpinian pointed out reference to the fund was on page 20 showing a balance of \$9,492. It was stated that the money is strictly allocated for the Armenia Relief Fund and not used for Church purposes. Kazar Terterian, former Parish Council Member, stated that all expenditures were documented with receipts.

Charlene Apigian questioned the use of the organ charge. The response was that this charge goes into a fund for the maintenance of the organ.

There were no other questions on the 1997 Financial Report.

Walter Negosian made a **MOTION** to accept the Financial Report as written. It was seconded by Connie Surabian, voted on and **PASSED**.

#### **VIII. ENDOWMENT FUND**

Janice Torosian, Parish Council Member, presented the written policy on establishing an endowment. The Assembly was provided a copy of the policy and discussion ensued.

Kathy Mekjian, Simon Javizian and others raised questions on the definition, restrictions, and use of principal and interest. Mr. Arthur Mardigian suggested that the policy be reworded since it should be precise and exact. Simon Javizian made a **MOTION** to amend the policy. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted on and **PASSED**. Discussion ensued. Many parishioners felt that it should be written by an attorney. Harry Amerkanian suggested that a Board of Trustees be set up to handle the Endowment Fund, rather than the Parish Council. After extensive discussion from the floor and the Parish Council, the Parish Council withdrew the policy and decided to table it until next year. Since there was a motion on the floor, a **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to withdraw the motion to amend the policy.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and **PASSED** to table the policy, as written, until it could be researched and presented to the assembly next year.

## **IX. 1998 BUDGET**

The questions on the 1998 Budget were addressed by Mr. Tarpinian, Parish Council Treasurer and Mr. Howard Atesian, Parish Council Assistant Treasurer, and Parish Council members as required. The Assembly was asked if they had questions.

Kazar Terterian asked for an explanation on Line #1 Salaries: the difference between the '97 actual and the '98 budget, which is approximately \$56,000. Also on line #12 under Visiting Clergy there is a budget of \$6,000.00 should not it be greater, considering we are without a pastor and may need more visiting clergy. Mr. Tarpinian explained that the visiting clergy category is basically for the Primate. Clergy taking the place of our pastor will be paid as contract labor. Line #1 was explained as budgeting money for a new priest and part of that is for the severance package for Father Baret Yeretian, 6 month's salary, as directed by the Diocese.

Line #19, Church School – Rent: Why was there zero for 1997 and now \$1,200 for 1998. Mr. Tarpinian replied that we were late in paying this fee.

Line #27 Water: Questions on the billing of \$4,890 versus '96 when we had an actual of \$2,883, and for '98 we have a budget of \$3,500. Mr. Tarpinian stated that we had a leak in the Museum for a long time. When it was discovered and repaired, the costs went down.

Line #34 Computer Services: An explanation was asked on this line item. Mr. Tarpinian's replied that we are in the process of updating our system.

Guy Amboian asked about the \$65,000 from the Apostolic Allocation – where is that listed? Mr. Tarpinian replied on the bottom of page 22 under Listed Expenditures.

Mr. Amboian asked if heating and light charges include the Museum. Mr. Tarpinian replied that it did.

Maryann Dardarian had questions on Line #2 Payroll taxes. We have increased our budget by about \$50,000 dollars, but we have decreased our taxes by about \$7,000. Is there any new tax breaks around that we do not know about? Mr. Tarpinian replied that a priest's salary is treated as an independent contractor and therefore payroll taxes are not reflected.

John Semizian asked if the Choir Director's salary is included in this Budget? If someone becomes available tomorrow, we will not have funds to pay him. Mr. Tarpinian responded that a Choir Director was not included in the budget when it was developed. When we get one, we will find funds to pay him. We have a possible candidate and if he comes it will probably be late September 1998. If someone is available sooner, we will have to go over the budget and find funds for a choir Director.

Mike Kaysserian commented on Line #2 that the explanation did not make sense. You have decrease it by \$7,000 or 30%. How are the contract employees affecting the number? The same priest was here last year.

Mr. Tarpinian responded that when the new computer program was started it was 6 months before they realized an error in the withholding of taxes from the employees. We did not withhold enough taxes from their payroll deductions. We did not feel we could ask the employees to pay the withholding amounts, as it was our error. We therefore made up the difference.

Mike Kaysserian, asked what was the actual cost? Why did you lower it this year? Howard Atesian explained that the twenty-four thousand was an incorrect figure due to the computer error. If that had not happened that \$24,000 figure would not be so high. There was continued

discussion on how the taxes are figured. They are based on the mix of contract labor being larger in the coming year.

Gloria Korkoian asked if there were any more questions and there were none.

Mr. Tarpinian stated that we had \$822,732 in expenditures, and receipts of \$809,789. When you add the Apostolic Society credit we came out in the black by \$52,057 for the year.

There were no other questions on the 1998 Budget.

Gloria Korkoian called for a **MOTION** to accept the 1998 Budget as presented

Carol Aprahamian made a **MOTION** to accept the 1998 Budget as presented. The **MOTION** was seconded, voted and **PASSED**.

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

**XI. ELECTION RESULTS**

The Chair asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee to announce the election results. Ara Ekizian announced the election results and congratulated the new members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

**Auditing Committee**

Evie Ezmerlian

**Nominating Committee**

Dr. Gary Assarian  
Yerchanig Joy Callan  
Pamela Dayinian  
Kathy Mekjian  
Dr. Dennis Papazian

**Parish Council**

Howard Atesian  
Gladys Barsamian  
Dr. Vincent Baylerian,  
Jane Hovsepian  
Michael Kaysserian  
Dr. Gary Zamanigian

Ara Ekizian congratulated all who accepted to run, stating that they were all winners. Chairman, Edward Korkoian, thanked Ara Ekizian, the Nominating Committee and the Ballot Monitors for a job well done. The Assembly responded with a round of applause.

**XII. MESSAGE FROM MR. RICHARD MANOOGIAN**

Mr. Azadian, as a member of the Executive Board of the Armenian Apostolic Society, read a message from Mr. Richard Manoogian, Chairman of the Apostolic Society. Mr. Manoogian congratulated the Assembly on their meeting and work. He referred to the founding members of the Armenian Apostolic Society and the goals of the Society. Today, one of the goals will be to consider developing a professional staff to increase the benefit of the Museum and Library. Mr. Manoogian was pleased to announce that his late father, Mr. Alex Manoogian, endowed the Armenian Apostolic Society a sufficient gift to aid with the growing financial needs of our parish.

**XIII. CLOSING MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Korkoian stated that during 1997 as a whole the Parish accomplished a great deal as outlined in our various committee reports. There was some discord and difference of opinions. There were changes such as the Choir Director and Sunday School Administrator. Earlier this year our Pastor, Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretian left our Parish after 4 ½ years to assume new responsibilities at the Diocese, where he is currently working on the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Mr. Korkoian announced that the Parish Council has called a Town Meeting for March 22, 1998 immediately following Divine Liturgy. It will be your opportunity to speak out on issues not addressed here tonight.


He congratulated our new Parish Council, and thanked the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Mary Keoleian and Andrew Tarpinian, all volunteers and chairmen of St. John's Committees and Organizations and all the members at large for their support. He asked that parishioners help by asking their family and friends to join the church as dues paying members and to join organizations for active involvement in our Parish.

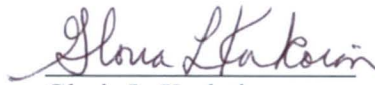
**XIV. MEMORIAL SERVICE AND BENEDICTION**

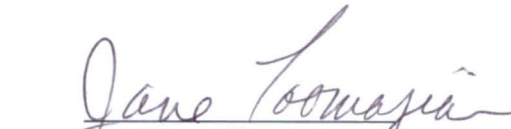
Der Diran Papazian offered the Prayer for the Deceased and read the names of the parishioners who died in 1997. He concluded with the Benediction.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The Parish Assembly adjourned at 11:15 PM

  
Edward H. Korkoian  
Parish Council Chairman

  
Gloria L. Korkoian  
Chairman of the Day

  
Jane Toomajian  
Secretary of the Day

  
Date