

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY RESURRECTION
NEW BRITAIN, CT
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 7, 1999

The annual Parish Assembly was opened at 1:00PM by parish council chairman Harry DerAssadourian. Deacon Hamlet Mehrabian, Deacon in Charge, led us in prayer.

Harry DerAssadourian asked for nominations from the floor for chairman of this year's assembly. Harry Hougas made a motion to nominate Sarkis Yirigian and Rose Mosey seconded the motion. Sarkis Yirigian declined the nomination for chairman. George Simonian made a motion to nominate Harry Hougas as chairman and Hurach Azarigian seconded the motion. Harry Hougas was elected to the chairmanship. Harry DerAssadourian asked for nominations for assembly secretary. Margaret Bagdigian made a motion to nominate Hasmig Cannata. Arthur Simonian Sr. seconded the motion to accept Hasmig Cannata as secretary, the motion carried and she was elected.

Mary Abrahamian stated that the names of last year's deceased were not remembered in the opening prayer as decided by the assembly many years back. Deacon Hamlet apologized and said that being new he was not aware of this and would remember to read the names at next year's assembly.

Yeretzgin Patricia Buttero, 1997 Secretary, read the 1997 Parish Assembly minutes. The minutes stood as read.

PASTORAL REPORT 1998

Chairman Harry Hougas invited Deacon Hamlet Mehrabian to present his report. Deacon Hamlet thanked all of the parishioners who have supported the church and for the families who have hosted the visiting clergy at their homes (report attached).

Chairman Harry Hougas asked the assembly if there were any comments or questions concerning the Pastoral Report. Adrienne Damian commented that the altar servers fall under the AACAP by-laws. Deacon Hamlet stated that he would address this issue.

Chairman Harry Hougas commented that Deacon Hamlet's report was excellent and very detailed and thorough.

Chairman Hougas asked for clarification on the sister parish program. Deacon Hamlet said that at the last Diocesan meeting it was decided that each church would try to financially help a sister church in Armenia if they wished to. The money would be sent to the diocese and they would distribute it through the F.A.R. department to the church that has been chosen by the parish. They would also send us a report, on request, on how our money was used. The suggested monetary donation by the diocese is \$3,000, although at the discretion of the Parish.

Recognitions for 1998

Before the parish council report was read by parish council chairman Harry DerAssadourian, he wanted to recognize two individuals who for over 40 years have given of themselves to help the church. Carmella Semonian and Arthur Simonian were presented plaques for their services by the Parish Council and Deacon Hamlet at this 57th Parish Assembly on February 7, 1999.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Parish council chairman Harry DerAssadourian presented the report (report attached)

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Berj Kallajian presented the report. (report attached).

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS (reports attached)

A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. – Julia Colpitts presented the report in absence of Arthur Kosian. Diana Colpitts, ACYOA Director, submitted the A.S.P. tuition to sponsor a child for camp in Armenia. Added into report.

CHOIR – Director Adrienne Damian presented the Choir report.

LOOYS – Co-Editor Adrienne Damian presented the Looys, Church Newspaper, report.

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Superintendent Roxie Maljanian presented the Sunday School report.

WOMEN’S GUILD – Vice Chair Yeretzgin Patricia Buttero presented the Women’s Guild report in the absence of Chairwoman Rose Badrigian.

PERMANENT CHURCH TRUST FUND

Hurach Azarigian presented the report. He stated that we have a certificate of deposit at Webster Bank with a balance of \$33,475.00 as of January 1,1999.

INVESTMENT REPORT

The report was given by Harry Hougas. Harry stated that there was an increase of 7.39%. Balance is \$38,273.12.

CEMETARY CUSTODIANS

Hurach Azarigian presented his report. Hurach stated that there were 108 burial plots available with the possibility of doubling the plots available if burials were placed on top of the other. Questions were answered regarding rates for plots.

All of the above reports were accepted by the assembly.

OLD BUSINESS

Outstanding items from 1997:

Yeretzgin Patricia Buttero had asked for a motion light to be installed in the front entrance of the church. Harry DerAssadourian stated that the parish council is looking to install one but there are a few problems in wiring codes that need to be addressed.

Enclosure for the door coming into the Abrahamian Auditorium from the parking lot that Violet Galazan had suggested last year is still being analyzed. Harry Azarigian said that especially children are always opening the door, and a lot of cold air is being let in. Lucy Simonian suggested installing a screen door for the summertime. Harry DerAssadourian said that all suggestions will be considered.

Mary Abrahamian stated that there is one blank left on the memorial donation plaque. She suggested that Harry Azarigian’s name should be placed on the plaque, because of the donation he made memorializing the parking lot. Harry DerAssadourian explained that a flush plaque would also be put next to the parking lot.

Harry DerAssadourian stated that the terms of two individuals who served on the Sarah Yagoobian Scholarship Fund would be coming to an end. Nishan DerBagdasarian and Harry Hougas both agreed to stay on for another 5 years. This year’s scholarships were awarded to James Omartian, \$500.00 for outstanding academic achievement and Tammy Bagdigian, \$300.00 for her involvement in church activities.

Mark Simonian thought that the rent for the community center was very expensive. Harry DerAssadourian stated that the Parish Council has a presentation under new business regarding the community center.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Harry Hougas mentioned that the Men’s Club dues was due on March 4, 1999.

Investment committee – Harry Hougas was elected for another 2 year term to serve on the Investment Committee. John Maljanian made a motion to nominate Harry Hougas, which was seconded by Ytz. Patricia Buttero.

The 1999 budget was presented by John Maljanian Jr. Chairman Harry Hougas asked for a motion to accept the report. Hurach Azarigian made the motion and Berj Kallajian seconded it. The motion carried.

Community Center – In 1998 we lost only three months of rent which resulted in us not having to transfer funds from savings. We paid for heat and maintenance of the community center for three months and a new roof was installed in 1998. The Boyajians, who did not charge the church, did the work, we only paid for the materials. George Simonian wanted to know why the insurance for the community center was only \$600.00. Harry DerAssadourian said that we only insure the building, the tenants carry the liability insurance.

Office Supplies – There were no significant changes. A new computer was purchased to replace the old computer and a new copy machine was purchased.

Harry DerAssadourian reviewed the honorarium fee schedule of our church as now carried in the Handbook, and the revisions we have imposed in the past few years - specifically as referred to Clergy and Deacons in Charge. The Parish Council office bills the families and distributes the payments. It was agreed that the handbook will be updated to reflect current practice. It was noted that consideration is given to hardship cases with corresponding adjustments in fee schedules, under guidance of the Clergy and Parish Council.

The 1999 Anniversary Banquet will honor the Sunday school teachers and superintendents.

The 2000 Anniversary Banquet will observe the 100th year of the start of the Armenian Church in New Britain.

Harry DerAssadourian and the Parish Council showed a detailed overview of a possible long term plan for purchasing land around our church site, to one day possibly building a new community center and add on to our existing parking. Discussion was held with members present at the assembly.

Harry DerAssadourian asked for a motion to enter into a sales agreement to sell the community center. John Maljanian made the motion and Harry Azarigian seconded it. Proposal: To authorize the parish council to make available for sale the Bagdigian Community Center and to enter into a sales agreement for not less than \$250,000. Proceeds of the sale are to be held in a special fund till such time another suitable memorial is found. Discussion followed.

Harry DerAssadourian stated that the building is old. It has an upstairs and downstairs similar to our old church on Erwin Place. The building is in need of extensive upgrading if we are to use it as a community center. It was also stated the property owned by the Scalises, that we were interested in buying, is no longer available. That piece of property is level but beyond the community center the property has a steep slope. Harry Hougas thought that we should put our efforts somewhere else.

Harry DerAssadourian told us that the current tenants would like to purchase the property. The profits that would be obtained from the sale would be held in a bank account until we were able to acquire property that would become available on Blake Road. A new community center or a pavilion could be built on that property. A church member has approached the parish council about donating money for the pavilion. This new center could serve as a Sunday school and insure our growth.

Mary Abrahamian asked about an addition to the existing building. Harry DerAssadourian stated that it would be complicated because of the aesthetics, certain ordinances, a transformer, which would have to be moved, and grade and moisture problems.

Arthur Simonian also agreed with Mary Abrahamian and stated that it is not easy to operate a split facility. Arthur also stated that most churches manage money poorly, we cannot afford to loose money and cannot take risks. Converting the church to cash, you must have some kind of investment for that money.

Harry DerAssadourian stated that we have to think about the future. Sell the property, then we would have the cash and if an opportunity came along then we can act on it.

Chairman Harry Hougas commented that it is fine to think of the future, but is opposed to selling the property now. He feels that we need a meeting with more members present.

Roxie Maljanian said that we should sell the building for a price, take the money and invest with the Diocese, which has an interest rate of at least 7%. Adrienne Damian and Alice Bagdigian made similar comments and felt strongly that the property should be sold for the suggested price.

Harry DerAssadourian presented net income figures for the last five years for the Community Center:

1998 - \$ 8,300
1997 - \$10,700
1996 - \$ 8,200

1995 - \$ 4,300
1994 - \$13,600

Harry DerAssadourian and John Chiloyan worked together to see what the property is worth. Harry stated that one prospective church was willing to purchase the church for \$240,000, but was not able to view the church because he did not have member approval. The tenants that are now leasing the property have also shown interest in purchasing the building. Harry DerAssadourian said that the building is worth approximately \$300,000. Harry also stated that if the parish council enters into negotiations with the tenants and both parties came to an agreeable price he would like to call a meeting for approval.

Alice Bagdigian felt that if an offer was made to go for it and sell.

Ytz. Marie DerAssadourian said that we must remember the Alice and Monty Bagdigian name on the new property.

Arthur Simonian stated that a committee should be appointed independent of the parish council. And, that the entire parish should be made aware of such dealings before we pass a motion.

Following the discussion the motion was withdrawn by John Maljanian. The Parish Council will restudy this issue for appropriate action.

ELECTION RESULTS

PARISH COUNCIL

1 Gregory Abrahamian	20	* 6 Gary Hovhanessian	62
2 Joseph Cannata	26	* 7 Charles Hovsepian	48
* 3 Harry DerAssadourian	61	8 Levon Vatian	18
4 Takouhi Erikian	13	9 Janet Masih	21
* 5 Eduardo Haddad	36	* 10 Gerard Roy	35

* Denotes Elected

AUDITING COMMITTEE

* 1 Berj Kallajian	55	2 John Maljanian Jr.	14
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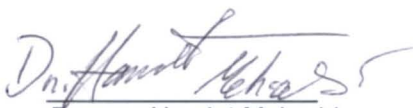
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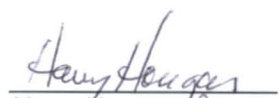
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1 Darlene Simonian	33	4 Rita Hovanesian	21
* 2 Hasmig Cannata	34	* 5 Betty Surabian	48
3 Violet Galazan	32	* 6 Angel Yirigian	39

* Denotes Elected

Meeting adjourned at 4:15PM. Deacon Hamlet led us in prayer.


Deacon Hamlet Mehrabian
Deacon In Charge


Harry Hougas
Assembly Chairman


Hasmig Cannata
Assembly Secretary