

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
WORCESTER, MASS., JANUARY 23, 26, 1969

With 54 members present, Mr. Zarvin Kasparian, chairman of the Parish Council, opened the Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Mass., at 8:35 P.M., Thursday, January 23, 1969, in the church hall, calling upon the pastor of the church, Very Rev. Muron Gurjikian, president of the Parish Council, to give the opening prayer. Seated at the dais with the pastor and chairman was Mr. Van Aroian, secretary of the Parish Council.

Chairman Kasparian then asked for nominations for an Assembly Chairman. Mr. Harry Sogigian was nominated and seconded. There not being any other nominations, nominations were moved to be closed and Mr. Sogigian was unanimously elected.

Next, Mr. Kasparian asked for nominations for an Assembly secretary. Mr. Torcom Hooloian and Harold Gregory were nominated. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed. Harold Gregory was elected in a close vote. The Assembly chairman and secretary will serve until Sunday, January 26, 1969, at which time, as a continuation of the Annual Assembly of January 23, the elections for Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Diocesan Delegates, and Nominating Committee will take place. (See attachment # 1.)

Mr. Harry Sogigian took his place at the dais, and Mr. Van Aroian, secretary of the Parish Council, left the dais to allow the seating of the newly elected Assembly secretary.

Chairman Sogigian began with the items on the agenda. (See attachment #2.)

1. Election of officers of the Assembly. This had been accomplished.
2. Reading of the minutes of the previous Assembly. The minutes of the previous Assembly were not on hand to be read.
3. Report of the Pastor. Very Rev. Muron Gurjikian read his report from the published "Annual Reports" (See attached copy, item #3.) The Assembly Chairman -- hereafter referred to as "The chairman" -- asked for comments and there were none.
4. Report of the Parish Council. The chairman invited Mr. Kasparian to read the report of the Parish Council from the "Annual Reports."

After a discussion on the objectives of a new standing committee known as the "Program Activities Committee (page 5, "Annual Reports"), the Assembly voted to include the word "athletic" in a separate statement on the objectives of this standing committee, inadvertently left out in the expression of the general categories of "cultural, educational, and religious programs" planned for the strengthening of the parish. The Assembly secretary then wrote in the word "athletic" on the copy of the separate statement. (See page 1 of attached item #4.) The vote to insert the word "athletic" was 26 for and 5 against.

It was moved, seconded, and voted that the Program Activities Committee program be made part of this Assembly's agenda.

The chairman asked for the reading of the Treasurer's Report to be followed by a discussion of both reports at once.

Mr. John Toromanian, treasurer, read the "Analysis of Receipts 1968" from page 8 of the "Annual Reports." He then read the "Analysis of Disbursements 1968" from page 9 of the same report.

There was a discussion on how Diocesan assessments were regulated. A question was asked why there was an unpaid balance of \$1,990.00 (corrected from \$1,999.00 as stated on page 9 of the "Annual Reports") due to Diocesan Headquarters. Mr. Toromanian explained that it was because we had additional expenses out of our checking account for regular operating expenses and just couldn't meet that payment at this time.

A question was asked why the electric bill was so low (page 9, "Annual Reports") and the answer was that the Cultural Center has been paying some costs because of a change in meters. There will be later adjustments made.

The chairman asked why the Fitchburg Educational Association was dissolved. (Page 7, "Annual Reports.") Mr. Kasparian explained that it was a voluntary move by them because of internal problems in Fitchburg.

Mr. Kasparian was asked if plans are being made to explore new areas for increasing church membership. The answer was in the affirmative. It was also suggested from a member that all the couples married in our church be contacted concerning membership.

The chairman asked for comments on page 9a of the "Annual Reports," entitled "Recapitulation 1968." There being none, the chairman proceeded to compliment Mr. Toromanian for his detailed work. The Assembly voted approval and appreciation for all that the Priest, the Parish Council, and the Treasurer have done for the church in the past year.

As chairman of the Diocesan delegates, Mr. Sogigian presented the report (page 12, "Annual Reports") of the Diocesan Delegates. There was a brief discussion on a pilot project of the 5 mid-western churches, and on the request to the U. S. Director of the Bureau of Census to count the Armenians as a separate community. In this

regard, all Armenians were requested to answer that they speak Armenian as a second language in their homes at the time of the census when they are asked if another language is spoken. Questioned on the statement "... as the future will reveal" in the third paragraph of his report, Mr. Sogigian explained that it meant that debates are going on concerning the building of Armenian schools and the formation of new youth programs in America.

Next, the Cultural Center Building Committee was asked to present a report (page 13 of the "Annual Reports."). After a detailed discussion of costs, payments, and time schedules, it was pointed out that final figures would not be available until March 1, 1969, the date that the building is finally accepted from the contractor by the Cultural Center Building Committee. Several suggestions were made as to how to raise more money to pay for the building, the total cost of which was estimated to be in the vicinity of \$400,000.00. An explanation was given as to the necessity for having a joint January 28 meeting to set up a calendar for meeting dates in the church and center halls. It was also explained that the Cultural Center financial report on page 15 of the "Annual Reports" was merely a report of the money received and spent in one year and that the complete history will be given when the building is finally turned over to the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish Assembly shortly after March 1, 1969.

The Armenian School Report, page 16, and the Sunday Church School Report, pages 17 to 19, were next taken up and there were no questions.

Mrs. Margaret Hagopian, choirmaster, was called upon to comment on the Church Choir Report, page 20. Mrs. Hagopian reminded the Assembly that new choir members are needed.

The Senior Ladies Auxiliary Report, page 21, the Young Women's Guild Report, page 22, and the Men's Club Report, page 23, were accepted without comment.

The ACYOA Senior's Report, page 24, and the ACYOA Junior's Report, page 25, were accepted. There were two significant discussions. Mr. Nerses J. Zeytoonian, chairman of the ACYOA Seniors, read the final two paragraphs of his report on page 24.

His last three sentences brought applause from the Assembly:

"A prevalent trend in our society is the breakdown of the family unit. Our Cultural Center promises an opportunity to bring each family closer together in active participation in the activities of the Church. 'DROP IN WITH YOUR CHILDREN BEFORE THEY DROP OUT WITHOUT YOU.'"

Miss Clara Takesian reported that the problem of the dwindling size of senior members of the ACYOA will be taken up at the Constitutional Assembly in Detroit to see if something can be done about it. She called on the members of the parish to give answers as to what can be done. Mr. Gerald Mosessian, a member of the Parish Council, asked that the ACYOA submit a report on how it feels that the parish itself may have been remiss.

The report of Boy Scout Troop 48, page 26, brought about several complimentary stories from the members of the Assembly concerning the excellent behaviour of the troop members in visits to the New London, Conn. submarine base and to other places. Naval personnel, bus drivers, restaurant owners, and rifle-range directors have commended the members of the troop for their wonderful deportment. Diocesan delegate George Shamgochian, who is also a deacon, pointed out that the boy scouts should also be complimented for their fine work as acolytes. Mr. Charles Sharigian added that in all these activities it should be remembered the part played by adult supervision.

The budget for 1969, page 10, was next considered. Anticipated income was based on a five year trend. There was no further discussion. Concerning the expenses for 1969, a motion was made to increase the Pastor's salary by one thousand dollars, making it \$7,500, and increasing the Assistant to the Pastor's salary from \$3,900 to

\$5,000. This motion was seconded.

A motion was then made to table the matter of the approval of the budget for 1969 until the final item on the Agenda, item #9, concerning the raising of the annual minimum dues to \$1.00 per week, per member was voted on. This motion was seconded. The vote was 29 for and 1 against.

The chairman now took up item #9 on the Agenda. After a lengthy discussion during which Mr. Toromanian also explained the parish trend in paying dues using charts showing the percentages for 1964, 1967, and 1968, the motion was made to increase parish dues to a minimum of \$1.00. After being seconded, there followed another detailed discussion on all factors involved in making such an increase. Several aspects of the matter, for and against, were presented. The Assembly chairman then called for a vote, and after an unsuccessful attempt to overrule the chairman, the vote was made and the motion carried with 27 voting for and 17 against. At the time of this voting there were 47 members present.

The chairman then went back to the tabled motion to increase the salary of the pastor and his assistant. The pastor rose to say that he didn't want his salary to be increased. Since this was the case, the chairman asked if the person who made the second would retract his second. The seconder of the motion so did and the chairman declared the motion dead.

There was a further question on the 1969 budget concerning the progress of obtaining the services of a custodian. Mr. Kasparian replied that there are hopes.

A further motion was made to place \$7,033.22 of the \$22,033.22 Balance December 31, 1968 (page 9a) into the reserve fund of the parish; and that \$15,000. be declared free cash to be used by the Parish Council as needed. This was seconded.

With 40 members present, and at 11:40 p.m., the motion was put to a vote and defeated. Voting for were eleven, and voting against were sixteen.

The chairman now asked that the Cultural Center Budget for 1969, page 11, be considered. After an explanation of several of the items in the budget and a discussion on custodial services with the idea that a student could be hired as an assistant on a part-time basis, and the presentation of a projected plan for the continuation of collecting pledges, and a discussion on a study that was being made for the determination of a policy in renting the center to outsiders, it was moved that the budget be approved. The motion was seconded and the Assembly voted a voice approval with no nays.

The chairman accepted a recommendation to place the addition of the word "athletics" in the statement of the objective of a Program Activities Committee. A discussion on the elections to be held Sunday, January 26 followed.

A motion was made that in regard to the election of Diocesan Delegates that the first seven highest in vote tabulation be accepted as delegates, rather than only five, since we are authorized seven delegates. The chairman ruled that the motion was out of order and that the ballot had to be either approved or disapproved as it was. A motion was made to accept the ballot as printed, with five delegates for Diocesan Delegates.

(11) With 34 members present, the motion was carried with 16 voting for, and 3 against.

After ascertaining that all voting material and procedures were ready for Sunday, the chairman declared the first session of the Assembly over. With the pastor's benediction the Assembly departed at 12:07 A.M.

The elections for Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Diocesan Delegates, and Nominating Committee, opened under the direction of the Parish Assembly chairman at 10 A.M., Sunday, January 26, 1969, in the hall of the Church of Our Saviour and

closed at the declared time of 1 P.M.

Each voter's name was checked on a paid-up membership list, before and after filling out the ballots, and before depositing the ballot in a sealed election box.

There were 217 church members voting.

The results of the elections were:

AUDITING COMMITTEE:

1. Anne Demirjian	--	142	
2. Edward Bilzerian	--	129	
3. Barbara Nalkranian	--	111	First Three Elected
4. Leon Kachadoorian	--	93	
5. Jerry Pahigian	--	77	
6. Papken Anusbigian	--	67	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. Charles Garabedian	-	144	
2. Jacob Hagopian	--	119	First Five Elected
3. Ara Eresian	--	113	
4. Manase Jardarian	--	103	
5. Suney Kachadoorian	-	102	
6. Charles Hoogasian	--	99	
7. Carnig Alexanderian	-	93	
8. Kachadoor Toromanian	-	83	
9. Jack Bilzerian	--	79	
10. Arthur Davidian	--	60	

PARISH COUNCIL

1. John Toromanian	--	168	
2. Zarvin Kasparian	--	153	First Five Elected
3. Van Aroian	--	139	
4. Harry Sahagian	--	105	
5. Ralph Yagjian	--	93	
6. Norman Noorjanian	-	83	
7. Francis Najarian	--	71	
8. Teddy Arakelian	--	62	
9. John Balian	--	59	
10. Thomas Tomasian	--	57	

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

1. Harry Sogigian	--	144	
2. Harold Gregory	--	125	First Five Elected
3. George Shamgochian	-	105	
4. Simon Zakarian	--	99	
5. Gilbert Markarian	--	98	
6. Bartevo Bagdasarian	--	95	
7. Asbed Zakarian	--	86	
8. George Herosian	--	85	
9. Torcom Hooloian	--	72	
10. Peter Nalbandian	--	57	

(Note: Because of the closeness of some of the votes, there was a complete recount for all the Diocesan delegates.)

The second session of the Annual Parish Assembly continued after the tabulations of the votes were completed for the reading of the minutes and for final comments. There were 27 members present at 3:30 P.M. A suggestion was made to inform all candidates of the voting results. The Assembly recommended that the entire ballot results be placed in the church Messenger.

The Assembly commended the chairman and the secretary on their diligent work.

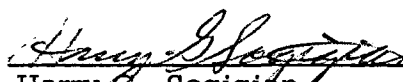
The chairman commended all members of the Assembly, the election workers, and expressed his faith in the future of the parish with all members working together heart to heart and spirit to spirit.


The minutes of the first and second sessions of the Annual Parish Assembly were accepted as read and corrected.

The Assembly adjourned with the Pastor's prayers at 4:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Very Rev. Muron Gurjikian
President


Harry G. Sogigian
Chairman


Harold A. Gregory
Secretary