

Armenian Church of Our Saviour
Worcester, Mass.

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly Session I

The Annual assembly of the Church of Our Saviour to approve the affairs of the parish for the preceding year was held in the Church Hall on Sunday, Jan. 24, 1971. The meeting, presided by Very Rev. Muron Dz. V. Gurjikian was called to order by the Parish Council Chairman Zarvin Kasparian at 1 PM. there being forty-five members present, they to constitute a quorum in accordance with the published invitation and agenda. The meeting was opened in prayer by our Pastor, Hayr Soorp Muron Gurjikian. Copies of the published "Annual Reports 1970" were distributed to all members present.

AGENDA

1. Election of officers of the Assembly
2. Reading of the minutes of previous Assembly
3. Report of the Pastor
4. Report of the Parish Council
5. Report of the Auditing Committee
6. Approval of proposed 1971 Budget
7. Reports of all organizations
8. Election of Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees
9. New Business

In accordance with Item 1 of the agenda, Mr. Kasparian then requested the Assembly to nominate a chairman to conduct the meeting. There being offered the name of Mr. Antranig Yarumian, the nominations were closed and by open vote Mr. Yarumian was unanimously elected.

Nomination was then requested for office of Secretary to the Assembly. Mr. Bartevo Bagdasarian was nominated and upon closing of nominations was duly elected by open vote to become Secretary. Mr. Kasparian then invited Chairman and Secretary to the table to conduct the meeting and pursue the remainder of the agenda.

For purpose of information only, since they had already been approved, minutes of the previous meeting were read to the assembled and this concluded Item 2 of the agenda.

Chairman Yarumian then requested our pastor Very Rev. Muron DZ. V. Gurjikian to present his report. This was read in person from the pages of the "Annual Parish Reports" it being recorded there in both Armenian and English languages on pages one thru 5.

The Chairman then invited the Parish Council ^{Secretary} Mr. Van Aroian to present a report of the Council's activities. This was read from the "Reports" also and recorded therein on pages six through nine. Clarification of the Council's report was offered by Chairman of the Council, Zarvin Kasparian pointing out highlights and stressing particularly the success of the Annual Bazaar, our relations with the Church community in Worcester and the general well-being of our Church family.

A motion made by Mrs. Jardarian to accept with approval and applause the Pastors and Parish Council reports was seconded and enthusiastically responded by the Assembly.

Item 5 of the agenda was brought to the attention of the Assembly and there being no members of the Auditing committee present, reference was made to their statement on Page 14 indicating examination of the financial records of the Council and the separate records of the Cultural Center Fund both having been duly audited and concluded to be correct. The financial reports appear on pages ten through 14.

Some questions on the financial report were satisfactorily clarified by Mr. Toromanian, Treasurer and Mr. Kasparian, Chairman of the Council. Further reference to the financial reports and condition of our treasury as well as the conspicuous income of the Parish were forcefully brought to the attention of the members by Hayr Soorp and Diocesan Delegate Harry Sogigian pointing out the tremendous effort our Parishioners have made in meeting obligations. It was clear that our income for the preceding year was well over \$100,000.00 which in essence is entirely voluntary support and inspires continued confidence in our Church life.

Chairman Yarumian asked for a motion to activate item 6 of the Agenda which was then proposed by Mr. Jacob Hagopian as follows:

To approve the Church Operations Budget prepared by the Parish Council and presented as an Income and Expense Analysis for 1971 on page 15 of the "Reports". Income is anticipated at \$62,200.00 and expenditures at \$65,205.00.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Jacob Bilezerian.

Followed a discussion of the budget by various members of the Assembly. Particular reference was made to the anticipated use of funds for Secretarial and for Program & Education Director. Question was raised as to the distinction between items designated as Custodians and separately as Building Maintenance. These questions were satisfactorily answered by Council Chairman Kasparian. It was also pointed out by the Pastor that administrative matters receive the full consideration of the Council and all purposes are best served when elected officials are permitted to carry-out their duties. This always being done in methodical and thoughtful manner.

The Budget proposal was then put to a vote and by show of hands was unanimously accepted.

Upon offering Item 7 of the agenda for consideration, Chairman Yarumian received a motion as follows:

That the reading of reports by the Church affiliates be dispensed with, since they are published in the Annual Reports and that they be accepted as rendered.

The motion was seconded.

Prior to taking a vote, the Assembly was given respite to assimilate the organizational reports with the purpose of raising any questions that might occur. The following were significant:

Sunday Schools need for a Superintendent. This work formerly done by a Youth Program Director is a position which is now open. It is preferred if a qualified individual volunteers for this service. The youth of our Church deserve and need a person to direct their activities and this purpose will be pursued in the coming year through funds proposed in the Budget.

The continuation of Armenian School was supported by remarks of Mr. George Herosian and suggestion was made to obtain funds offered by the AGBU. Mr. Van Aroian, on the same subject, indicated the need for teachers, as well as text material. Mr. Aroian explained the peculiar but compelling reason for continued existence of Armenian language teaching, emphasizing the sociological nature of several generations of Armenians now in America and the need to continue teaching the American born Armenian his heritage.

Upon open vote in the Assembly there was unanimous approval of the motion stated above which concerns the following Reports:

68th Diocesan Assembly Report	Page 16
Armenian School Report	Pages 17 & 18
Sunday Church School	Pages 19 & 20
Church Choir	Page 21
Egeghetzaser Dignatz Mihootyoun	Page 22
Young Womens Guild	Page 23
Mens Club	Page 24
ACYOA Seniors	Page 25
ACYOA Juniors	Page 26
Boy Scout Troop 48	Page 27

Item 8 of the Agenda, Election of Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees has been set for the second session of this meeting and is outlined in the "Invitation to Parish Assembly Meeting".

Chairman Yarumian then called for proposals and discussion of New Business which appears as Item 9 on the Agenda. The suggestions for discussion were as follows:

1. Arrange for an earlier meeting date of the annual meeting.
Mr. Kasparian explained that this matter has been brought to the attention of the Diocese and because of the necessity for maintaining a uniform calendar for all the Parishes in the Diocese, a change would not be acceptable.
2. Question of having women appear as candidates for elective office in the Parish.
It was pointed out that there is now no bar to such practice provided there are qualified and dedicated candidates who are willing to serve.

3. A suggestion was made and taken under advisement for the 1971 council that the years activities be previewed in suitable form and mailed to the membership before the annual meeting. The thought is to stimulate greater interest and participation in the meeting.
4. A suggestion that the Center be offered for rental to augment income was ably demonstrated by Mr. Kasparian as not being feasible. Generally speaking, the cost of maintaining the facility for a given function excludes any great profit under a reasonable rental schedule.

It was proposed that the minutes of this session be read and approved. Upon the Secretary's reading of his notes of the foregoing and corrections being made, this was voted acceptable.

Upon motion being made and duly seconded it was proposed that this the First Session of the Annual Assembly be continued on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 10-AM.

The session adjourned with unanimity following closing prayer by Hayr Soorp Gurjikian.

SESSION II

The second session of the Meeting was opened in accordance with arrangement of the Agenda on Sunday, Jan 31, 1971 at 10-AM. The ballot box was sealed by Deacon Simon Zakarian representing Very Rev. Muron Dz. V. Gurjikian and the Nominating Committee composed of the following: Mr. Asbed Zakarian, Chairman, Mr. Harry Sogigian, Secretary and members William Aslanian, Suney Kachadoorian, John Merzigian along with selected members officiated at the elections.

Upon closing of the polls at 1:00 PM the meeting was again called to order with twenty two members present.

Chairman Yarumian requested the results of the balloting. Chairman of Nominating Committee Asbed Zakarian reported as follows: Total number of votes cast was 176.

In descending order of votes received for office of Parish Councillor,

John Toromanian	145 Votes, Declared Elected
Zarvin Kasparian	132 Votes, " "
Jacob Hagopian	125 Votes, " "
Van Aroian	105 Votes, " "
Arsen Haroian	62 Votes,
Haroutune Kasparian	62 Votes,
Richard Mshooshian	57 Votes,
Frank Najarian	56 Votes,
Andrew Shadbegian	47 Votes,
Andrew Surabian	20 Votes,
George Sogigian	1 Vote,
Haroutune Belezarian	1 Vote,

Since balloting for the fifth member of Parish Councillor tied at 62 votes, it became necessary for the Presiding Officer to cast a deciding vote. In accordance with By-Laws, Very Rev. Muron Dz. V. Gurjikian cast his vote by drawing the name of one of the two tied candidates from a receptacle. This being done, Arsen Haroian was declared elected.

For Nominating Committee the results were as follows:

Ramon Hovsepian	127	Votes	Declared	Elected
George Herosian	120	"	Declared	Elected
Berjohhie Zakarian	107	"	"	"
Rose Aslanian	91	"	"	"
Manase Jardarian	77	"	"	"
Kachador Toromanian	69	"		
Geo. Megrichian	65	"		
Harry Dodakian	59	"		
Carnig Alexandrian	53	"		
Ralph Nigosian	38	"		
Popken Anusbigian	1	Vote		

For Auditing Committee the balloting was as follows:

Anne Demirjian	114	Votes	Declared	Elected
Jacob Bilzerian	88	Votes	"	"
Barbara Nalkranian	88	"	"	"
Dr. Sherman				
Santoian	78	"		
Richard Papazian	73	"		
John Kabian	58	"		

Motion was made and seconded that the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted with thanks and appreciation.

Indiscussion, it was suggested that the method of tallying the election results for this election be permanently recorded for future reference and use. A special form having been prepared by the current committee.

Upon vote of the above motion it was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Asbed Zakarian, Chairman thanked his co-workers and all those who had helped to carry-out the purposes of the Nominating Committee.

Upon reading of the minutes for Session II and their acceptance and motion made and duly seconded to adjourn, the meeting closed with prayer by Hayr Soorp Gurjikian, at 4:00 PM

Muron Dz.V. Gurjikian

Very Rev. Muron Dz.V. Gurjikian
President

Antranik Yarumian

Antranik Yarumian, Chairman

Bartev Der Bagdasarian

Bartev Der Bagdasarian, Secretary