

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

Worcester, Mass.

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING HELD 2/18/76 IN CHURCH HALL

1. The meeting was called to order about 7:45 P.M.
Approximately 50 parishioners were present. Those present constituted a quorum.
Mr. John Kabian called the assembly to order. Deacon Daniel Kochakian gave the invocation after which nominations for chairman were invited from the floor.
Mr. Manasse Jardarian, Mr. Andrew Yarumian and Mr. Zaven Kasparian were nominated. Mr. Jardarian declined. A vote of 15 to 14 in favor of Mr. Kasparian decided in his favor.
Nominations for secretary were invited. Mr. Gary Hovhanesian was nominated for English minutes and Mr. Vaghan Pogharian was nominated for Armenian minutes. There being no further nominations, both were elected.
2. Mr. Kasparian then invited items to be considered later as matters of new business.
 - A. Miss Berjouhi Zakarian suggested that the old N. E. School of Accounting on Salisbury St. be purchased as a home for the elderly.
 - B. Mr. Jack Bilzerian inquired if the Parish Council had an investment committee and whether it had any authority to do other than advise.
 - C. Mr. Joan Toromanian noted an omission of the nominating committee report on the agenda.

There was no action taken on item A. The questions regarding the investment committee were answered fully later.
The nominating committee report was subsequently presented.
3. The chairman solicited the wishes of the assembly regarding the detailed reading of all of the reports. By vote it was agreed that each member could peruse the report and ask questions rather than require the reading.
4. Report of the Deacon:
There were no significant questions; it was moved, seconded and voted to accept the Deacons report.
5. Parish Council report:
 - A. The investment committee is advisory, only the assembly can authorize investment. The Parish Council reported that although some \$20,000 could be invested, it was not deemed an adequate sum to invest since contingencies could require the use of this cash, the premature use of which could nullify any interest which it would have earned.

Mr. Edward Bilzerian explained that prudent cash flow management required the availability of what seems to be an inordinate amount of cash but which in fact is barely enough.

B. Miss Anne Demerjian and others referred to a meeting held on Dec. 3, 1974, a special assembly regarding the status of our clergy. Her comments were that since that meeting was not certified by The Primate, it could not be included as a bona fide meeting as recorded in the Parish Council Report. There was also a question as to why the minutes of that meeting were not read.

The Dec. 3rd meeting was called by the Parish Council hence a report of its existence was in order; however, since it was not a Parish Annual Assembly, its minutes need not be read. It was also pointed out that the meeting had adjourned in such disarray as to preclude the orderly acceptance of the minutes. After some further discussion it became apparent that there was some confusion between Parish Council members as to the words and intent of a letter sent by The Primate relative to that meeting. The letter was not available for analysis and explanation.

C. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the Parish Council Report with the exception of the financial section.

6. Report of the auditing committee:

A. Miss Anne Demerjian noted that although the report contains her name, she had not in fact been a participant of the audit thereby recommending that the report is invalid. Mr. Edward Bilzerian, another member of the committee acknowledged that he had indeed made an audit and found the accounts to be satisfactory. Mr. Nalbandian, Parish Council Treasurer, reported that due to the volume of work involved in preparing the books for audit, he had solicited Mr. Bilzerian's help and that time was not available to perform an audit in the normal time allowed. Mr. Bilzerian also noted that he could not respond to the reason that the names of the other members of the audit committee appeared even though they had not participated.

B. Mr. Asbed Zakarian then moved that the audit committee complete its audit by the end of the formal assembly Sunday afternoon. This motion was seconded and approved.

C. The discussion highlighted a flaw in the system wherein, the audit committee as well as other elected committees should designate a spokesman or chairman through whom all communications could be processed.

D. There was a question as to why the Beano report was not audited and the answer given is that Beano is not an officially sanctioned activity of the Diocesan Assembly, hence any allusion to it in an assembly report would render the report invalid.

E. Mr. A. Zakarian, adding his thoughts to a general consensus recommended that the financial reporting of the church business be revamped to simplify budgeting, auditing and achievement measurement. He then moved that a survey committee be established by the Parish Council to accomplish this objective. This motion was seconded and approved by the assembly.

7. Organization reports:
 - A. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept all organization reports as published without detailed reading. The motion was unanimously voted.
8. Review of Page 13 of the Report, Income & Expense:
 - A. All questions regarding this report were answered satisfactorily.
9. Review of Page 11, Disbursements:
 - A. A variety of miscellaneous questions were answered satisfactorily.
 - B. There were several constructive comments regarding economies which could be exercised to reduce church expenses. The Parish Council is advised that the parishioners want to see concious effort expended in this direction.
10. Recapitulation - Page 12:
 - A. All questions were answered satisfactorily.
11. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the report up to this point except Pages 10, 11 and 12. These will be voted upon Sunday.
12. 1976 Budget, Page 13:
 - A. A motion was made and seconded that funerals be free of any fee for qualifying members. During the question period, it was reported that the fee is in fact totally distributed between soloist, organist and priest. Mr. Charles Garabedian who made the original motion thereupon withdrew it.
 - B. Mr. B. Bagdasarian then moved to approve the budget as is even though some of the accounts were not realistically budgeted. Mr. Torkom Boyajian amended the motion reducing the assessment to the Diocese from \$15,000 to \$14,000 because notice of such reduction was in hand. This motion, amended, was seconded and voted affirmatively. \$74,880.
 - C. An assertion was made that the budget did not include any money for mortgage reduction. The Parish Council was advised that whenever money is available and the action seems prudent, to allot moneys for this purpose as the fiscal year progresses.
13. Mr. John Toromanian, chairman of the nominating committee, reported that the committee activity was intense and generally quite fruitful.
14. The parish assembly was then adjourned, with a benediction from Deacon Kochakian, to Sunday Morning, Feb. 22, 1976, 10:00 A.M., at which time the church elections will be held. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 P.M.

15. The Parish Assembly was reconvened on February 22, 1976 at 10:00 A.M. by chairman Kasparian. Deacon Kochakian officiated at the sealing of the ballot box. The meeting was then opened for elections until 1:00 P.M. when the ballot was closed. The election was for the purpose of electing the Parish Council, Auditing, and Nominating Committees.

167 entitled members voted, the tally was as follows:

Parish Council:

Charles Garabedian	105
Nerses John Kabian	93
Leo Parnagian	84
David Adishian	75
Haroutune Kasparian	75
John Merzigan	69

Nominating Committee:

Arsen Haroian	112
Berjounie Zakarian	87
George Herosian	85
Gilbert Markarian	83
Anne Demerjian	73

Auditing Committee:

Bartev Bagdasarian	125
Edward Bilzerian	115
Harry Sogigian	94

It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the results of the election. The chair extends the appreciation of the parish to the nominating committee for their good works throughout the proceedings. The chair also extends the appreciation of the parish to all of the parish's elected and appointed committees and to the church groups for their moral and material support of the parish's programs.

16. Mrs. Manasse Jardarian inquired as to the reason the annual parish meeting, usually held in January and so indicated in the by-laws, was deferred to February particularly as this meeting conflicted with local school vacations during which time many members of our parish take this opportunity for winter vacation. Many reasons were offered and seemed to be satisfactory.
17. The chairman raised the question of meeting quorum. He noted the difference in attendance between Wednesday and election day Sunday, indicating that perhaps the acceptance of the minutes of this meeting was by a smaller and possibly differently constituted group than was present at the main proceeding.

The sense of the discussion which followed was that the new parish council review the possibility of having the meeting and election the same day by the same body.

18. The auditors reported the result of their audit as stipulated on Wednesday evening. In essence the auditors found the financial records in order. There was one exception. Their report referred to the fact that the total telephone payments included receipts for personal calls and that only a net payment be reported.
- Accounting practice as it pertains to the system in use by the church requires reporting as indicated in order that payments and receipts may be easily reconciled. When and if the accounting practice is modified to allow for account analysis, then perhaps individual expense items can be readily available for scrutiny.

It was moved, seconded and voted to accept pages 10,11, and 12, all accounts of the parish council report.

19. The chairman then referred to item A of new business, the subject of acquiring the N.E. School of Accounting as a nursing home facility.

The idea of such an enterprise was discussed. Its merit being viewed favorably, it was moved and seconded that the parish council form a committee to investigate this matter. The motion was defeated.

20. It was moved, seconded and voted to delete the section on major gifts on page 10.
21. A vote of appreciation was extended to the ladies who prepared the Sunday luncheon.
22. After a reading of both the English and the Armenian minutes, it was moved, seconded and voted to accept them both. The assembly was particularly appreciative of Mr. Vahan Pogharian's Armenian minutes.
23. Chairman Kasparian proceeded to adjourn the assembly; it was moved, seconded and voted so to do.

Deacon Daniel Kochakian closed the meeting by leading the assembly in the recitation of the Hayr Mer.

Attest,

Garabed Hovhannesian
Garabed Hovhannesian
Secretary of Annual Parish Assembly

2/28/26