

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
Worcester, Massachusetts

Minutes - Annual Parish Assembly

FIRST SESSION

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour was called to order at 8:00 PM, Wednesday, January 25, 1978 by the Parish Council Chairman, Nerses John Kabian, Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian, Pastor, presided over the meeting and gave the opening prayer. Also present at the assembly was Rev. Garabed Kochakian, Assistant Pastor.

The 39 members present constituted a quorum.

The first order of business on the agenda was the election of a chairman and recording secretary for the assembly. Mr. Kabian asked for nominations for these two positions. Nominated and elected were Gilbert Markarian, Chairman and George Migridichian, Secretary. Hereafter, any reference to the Chairman will be referred as Chairman of the Assembly.

The Chairman asked for the reading of the minutes of the previous Parish Assembly. The body noted that since the minutes had previously been accepted and approved, the actual reading should be dispensed with to save time.

The Chairman asked for the Pastor's report. Father Yeghishe requested Father Garabed to read the report in English. Father Garabed noted the highlights of the report and expressed Father Yeghishe's and his gratitude and appreciation to all the organizations and parishioners of the Parish. The report was voted on and approved by the Assembly.

The Chairman next asked Charles Garabedian, Parish Council Secretary to read the Parish Council report. Some minor discussion took place and it was recommended that the report include more pertinent parish information such as "how many dues paying members are in the parish, and how many mailings are sent out by the Church Office." The Chairman noted that the Council report should have included all the names of the present Parish Council and their respective offices.

The next order of business was the Auditing Committee Report, presented by Edward Bilzerian. The Committee found the books of all the Parish organizations in order. On page 9, a correction was necessary regarding annual pledges. It should read \$19,000. The report was voted on and approved by the Assembly.

Harry Sogigian brought up a significant point that, if all the income from all the church organizations were totalled together, the grand total would be \$112,000 indicating the great sacrifice of our people.

The \$189.00 in the Freedom Bank was questioned. This balance is called a Choir Fund, and is to be used by the Choir for training of organists. A message will appear in The Messenger periodically to inform our Parishioners of its existence.

Van Aroian made a commendation concerning the anticipated heating bill of \$12,000. for 1977 but an actual expense of \$8,000.

The Cultural Center Building Fund report was approved by the Assembly. Recognition was given to Bart Bagdasarian for his tireless efforts and many devoted years as treasurer of the Building Fund.

A motion was entertained by the Chairman to accept the financial report. It was seconded by Arthur Elloian and approved by the Assembly.

The Chairman next asked if there were any questions regarding the other organizational reports. Edward Bilzerian noted that the Diocesan report was not complete. He recommended that the report include a summary of the Annual Diocesan Assembly. George Herosian commented that the Choir Report should include the names of the Choir members. Francis Najarian, the Parish Council Treasurer, stated that the Choir Report should include a financial report.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning "excess funds" in the possession of each organization of the parish. The question arose, "what constitutes excess funds?" The Parish Council Treasurer noted that all the church groups were notified prior to the end of the year to turn over their excess funds. The ACYOA Juniors has a balance of \$900. in their treasury. Rose Gulanian, an Advisor explained that the ACYOA in the past was under the jurisdiction of the Central Council and according to their By-Laws, all monies should be turned over to the Central Council. Der Garabed explained that the money had been held back presently to purchase a memorial on behalf of the ACYOA Juniors. Der Garabed also noted that we should not always be looking for money or we may lose sight of the spiritual feelings of our people. The Parish Council concluded that they will send guidelines to all the organizations concerning "excess funds".

The Chairman summarized that the Council should do some missionary work towards goals and guidelines with the various organizations to insure more harmony and understanding with each other.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the proposed 1978 budget. The \$400. allocated for Deacon's expense should have noted that the costs were incurred only for sacraments. A motion by Yerezgin Kochakian to insert \$1000.00 as an expense item for the appreciation dinners for the Choir and Sunday School teachers was defeated.

A motion to accept the 1978 anticipated income and expense budget was seconded and unanimously accepted by the Assembly.

Under new business, a proposal was made by Francis Najarian to form a committee to investigate the merits of razing the Parish House to build a new administrative building after the mortgage on the Cultural Center has been paid off. This motion was seconded by Edward Bilzerian and after some discussion, was defeated. It was suggested that studies of this type should originate within the Parish Council body.

George Herosian made a motion to pay only our monthly principal and interest payments on the Cultural Center mortgage and hold all other Cultural Center Building Fund money in escrow in one of our existing accounts. The motion was

defeated by the Assembly.

The following recommendations were made by Yeretzgin Kochakian:

1. Have only one meeting for the Annual Parish Assembly. Include the voting on the same.
2. Mail a copy of the Annual Report to all our parishioners.
3. Make copies of the minutes available to all parishioners.

Since there was no other new business the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM following a minute of silence for our departed Hayr Soorp, Very Rev. Muron Gurjikian and a closing prayer by Father Gizirian and Father Garabed.

SECOND SESSION

The Parish Assembly reconvened on Sunday, January 29, 1978 at 10:00 AM. The first order of business was the sealing of the ballot box by Rev. Garabed Kochakian. Elections were then opened and closed at 1:00 PM. Due to the absence of Chairman, Gilbert Markarian, Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian presided over this second session of the Assembly. Chairperson, Lucy Kasparian of the Nominating Committee, reported that 168 votes were cast with the following results:

Parish Council

1. John Merzigian	109 votes	elected
2. Charles Garabedian	103 votes	elected
3. Vahan Pogharian	94 votes	elected
4. Nerses John Kabian	84 votes	Elected
5. Leo Parnagian	78 votes	elected
6. Ervant Osganian	73 votes	elected
7. Haroutune Kasparian	58 votes	First alternate
8. Herbert Alexander	54 votes	Second alternate
9. Ann Hovenesian	53 votes	
10. Frances Elloian	47 votes	
11. John Balian	43 votes	
12. Isabel Sahagian	41 votes	

Nominating Committee

1. Arsen Haroian	113 votes	elected
2. William Aslanian	97 votes	elected
3. Charles Sharigian	96 votes	elected
4. Jean Merzigian	76 votes	elected
5. Asbed Zakarian	73 votes	elected
6. Ruth Kaprelian	67 votes	elected
7. Rosanna Sogigian	66 votes	
8. Ruth Haddon	65 votes	
9. Louis Mikitarian	47 votes	
10. Arsene Bajakian	44 votes	

Auditing Committee

1. Harry Sogigian	118 votes	elected
2. Robert Shooshan	89 votes	elected
3. Tina Bilazarian	76 votes	elected
4. Harry Sahagian	64 votes	tied alternates
5. Ann Demirjian	64 votes	
6. Elizabeth Calfaian	57 votes	

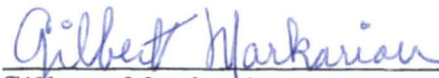
It was voted to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. George Herosian on behalf of the Assembly thanked the Nominating Committee for their efforts. He also suggested that due to the absence of the Chairman, the office of Vice-Chairman should be considered for future Annual Parish Assemblies. Zarvin Kasparian noted that the format of the financial report was incorrect. The notes prior to the treasurer's signature should be in the Parish Council Report. John Toromanian made a motion that the Annual Parish Assembly and elections occur on one day. The motion was seconded and carried. The Parish Council was directed to act on this motion for next year.

The minutes were read, corrected and approved by the Assembly. A motion was made and accepted to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM. The Assembly was closed with a prayer by Rev. Garabed Kochakian.

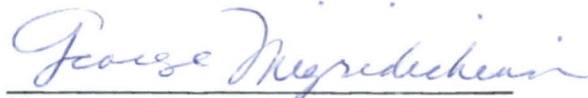
Respectfully submitted,



Very Rev. Yeghishe Gizirian
President



Gilbert Markarian
Chairman



George Migridichian
Secretary