

Armenian Church Of Our Saviour

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MINUTES - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts convened in the Church proper on Sunday, January 27, 1980 immediately following church services with approximately 200 in attendance.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, N. John Kabian, called for nominations and election of officers for the Assembly. Mr. Gilbert Markarian was elected Chairman and Mrs. Mary Arakelian, Secretary. The Assembly then recessed at 12:00 noon for lunch and the polls were opened for balloting for members of the Parish Council, Auditing and Nominating Committees.

After lunch served by the Senior Ladies Auxillary, the meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. in the lower hall of the Cultural Center under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gilbert Markarian with Very Reverend Father Yeghishe Gizirian presiding as Pastor along with the Reverend Father Garabed Kochakian, Assistant Pastor. There were 104 parishioners in attendance.

The Chair extended special thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian and her committee from the Senior Ladies Auxillary for the preparation of a delicious and enjoyable lunch.

Prior to proceeding to the agenda for the day, the Chair recognized Mr. John Kabian, Chairman of the Parish Council who read a letter of resignation from the Pastor the Very Reverend Father Yeghishe Gizirian. The resignation was contingent upon the approval of the Primate, Archbishop Torcom Manoogian. The assembly was stunned by this unexpected announcement. After some discussion and a request that Father Gizirian reconsider, which was declined, the Assembly voted unanimously to express profound thanks and appreciation to Father Gizirian for his services to his church, parish, and community and to accept with deep regrets his decision to transfer pending the approval of the Primate Archbishop Torcom Manoogian.

A motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous assembly was made by Mrs. Lucy Kasparian and seconded.

With the consent of Hayre Yeghishe, the Report of the Pastor was read by Reverend Father Kochakian. Motion was made, seconded and passed that the report be accepted with sincere gratitude and appreciation.



The reading of the Parish Council Report was waived and the Chair asked for questions and comments. Several items of interest were brought to the attention of the members for discussion and clarification.

The following were noted accordingly:

- The monetary status of our Clergy when performing at another Church. A fixed fee of \$75, established by the Diocese, is paid by the visited Church to our Church.
- Inadvertently, Mr. Vahan Pogharian's name as Liaison to the Sunday Church School was omitted. Apologies were extended by the Parish Council Chairman for the omission.
- The Stained-Glass Project is near completion, and as of this date, five windows for completion are still pending. Father Kochakian reported that all of the stained-glass windows have been purchased.
- Regarding the Cultural Center and Church Edifice repairs and refurbishing, all said repairs have been completed, with the exception of the carpeting in all the upper connector areas in the Cultural Center. This task will be completed by the end of the month.
- The Assembly Chairman and the Parish Council, jointly, wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Raymond Hovsepian, who so untiringly coordinated the major undertaking of the repairs to the Parish complex.
- There being no further comments or suggestions at this time, motion was made, seconded and carried that the Parish Council Report exclusive of the financial statements be accepted.

The Assembly then turned to the Financial Reports as submitted by the Parish Council and audited by the Auditing Committee.

Mr. Herbert Alexander, Treasurer of the Parish Council, responded to numerous questions directed from the members present regarding the continuing situation of the ever-increasing high costs of many mandatory items, i.e. paper, texts, candles, etc. as enumerated in the Financial Statement and the 1980 Anticipated Budget.

The Annual Financial Beano Committee Report for 1979 was very enlightening as to the monetary status that was accomplished during the said year. The Beano Chairman, John Kabian, on behalf of his Committee, publicly thanked all the volunteer workers for their repeat performance of cooperation and fellowship every Thursday evening. He asked for volunteers to further assist in this endeavor.

Comments on the Diocesan Assessment brought forth pros and cons as to the amounts taxed to the various parishes. The Chairman of the Assembly enlightened the members and urged their attendance at the annual meeting when the Diocesan Delegates report which follows the Annual Diocesan Assembly.

Mrs. Arlene Manos, Coordinator of the Sunday Church School, stated that due to the fact that the Sunday Church School does not have a treasurer a clarification of the Income and Expenditures incurred by the Sunday School be given by the Parish Council in the near future to the Sunday School Committee.

After some discussion, questions and clarification of items, it was moved, seconded and voted to approve the 1979 Financial Statement.

A point of concern to all parishioners was expressed by George Herosian that while the Beano Program was not to be slighted; we must not be dependent upon it either. We must not lose sight of our obligations and responsibilities.

The Proposed Budget for 1980 was then discussed and it was noted that while it had been submitted as a deficit budget with the unexpected pending resignation of the Pastor, the Budget may well not be a deficit. The Assembly voted, approved and acceptance of the 1980 Budget.

The Chair asked the Assembly to waive the reading of the Reports as submitted by the Church Auxillary Organizations and proceeded with a discussion on each.

Senior Ladies Auxillary: Accepted as written

AVAK Report: The success of this program, remarked Chairman Lucy Kasparian, is absolutely phenomenal. An invitation of WELCOME was extended to all senior citizens for a Monday morning full of fun, fellowship, and diversified activities.

The following were accepted as written: The Ekmalian Choir; Sunday Church School; Cultural Organization; the Men's Club and the Women's Guild,

Armenian School: At present, there are 22 students enrolled.

Library Committee: Mr. Kenneth Krikorian, Chairman, extended an open invitation to all the members to make use of the library for their enrichment and enjoyment. The new location of the library is in the lower room of the Cultural Center (former Audio-Visual Room). Any constructive comments will be gratefully acknowledged by the Committee.

The reports of both the ACYOA Seniors and ACYOA Juniors were accepted as written.

When all the various organization reports were read and acknowledged, Mr. George Migridichian recommended that in the future, all Annual Reports submitted by any group, be signed with an authorized signature, and it would be beneficial if a financial statement were included.

Motion made that all the reports submitted by the Auxillary Organizations, be accepted, seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Zaven Kasparian reminded the members about the St. Vartan Stewardship Program that we had participated in 1978 and 1979. The membership declined in 1979 due to a misunderstanding regarding the billing. This program is beneficial inasmuch as each Steward's membership is credited towards the assessment, thereby lowering the final assessment paid by the Church.

The Assembly was notified by John Kabian, that the initial Cultural Center mortgage was paid up; however, there is a 2nd mortgage on the Cultural Center Building in the amount of \$38,540 due to repairs and renovations.

It was the contention of the majority in attendance that a reserve be built up to offset any future maintenance problems. After a brief discussion, Mrs. Agnes Markarian suggested the Parish Council consider changing the name of future donations to the "Cultural Center Maintenance Fund" rather than the "Cultural Center Building Fund."

The 1979 Parish Assembly had recommended that a committee be elected to do basic research for the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Church in America. Mr. Kenneth Krikorian informed the Assembly that a committee has been formed, and more information will be forthcoming in the near future.

The following recommendation by John Kabian, was primarily directed to the newly-elected members of the Parish Council: Demolition of the present Parish House and replacement by a new administrative building adjacent to the Cultural Center Building facing Salisbury St. After a brief discussion, the motion to study the feasibility of such an undertaking, was made, seconded and adopted by the Assembly.

John Kabian then presented a progress report on the last item on the agenda - the acquisition and disposition of property at 4 Mary Ann Drive, Worcester, MA.

- (a) The property has been donated to the Church by a parishioner Mrs. Agavni Thomasian.
- (b) The Parish Council appointed Tina Bilazarian, a licensed realtor from this community, to handle the rental aspect in obtaining a tenant for said residential property to satisfy insurance requirements. Tina has informed the Parish Council that a tenant has been found and a security deposit has been acquired.
- (c) In the time frame of 6 months, starting February 1, 1980, the Parish Council should decide whether or not to retain said property for a possible Pastor's residence or sell it outright. If rented, property may be taxable.
- (d) This 6-room Ranch with 1-car garage, has some cosmetic repairs and needs a new roof. It is in an excellent residential area.

After some discussion, the Assembly voted to defer action for at least 6 months, pending the recommendation of the Parish Council.

Mr. Arsen Haroian suggested the Parish Council consider the adoption of a policy of not charging any fees for church members and their families who are fully-dues payment, for funerals of church members.

The Chair then called on Mr. Ludwig Stepanian to report the results of the balloting. Mr. Stepanian reported that there were 542 paid members eligible to vote and that 186 ballots were cast, the results of the election are as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL

Zaven Kasparian	127 votes	elected
Jacob Hagopian	120 votes	elected
Van Aroian	119 voted	elected
Leon Kachadorian	103 votes	elected
George Migridichian	102 votes	elected
Kay Garabedian	88 votes	elected
Haroutune Kasparian	68 votes	1st alternate
Paul Krikorian	50 votes	2nd alternate
Andrew Surabian	50 votes	2nd alternate
Arthur Elloian	48 votes	
Madieros Mooshagain	44 votes	
Charles Der Kazarian	35 votes	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Sogigian	128 votes	elected
Arpie Migridichian	118 votes	elected
Gary Degermajian	105 votes	elected
Rose Gulanian	95 votes	elected
Armenoohie Jardarian	94 votes	elected
Frances Elloian	92 votes	1st alternate
Jacob Bilzerian	83 votes	
Isabel Sahagian	63 votes	
George Davagian	47 votes	

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Abrahan Sivazlian	130 votes	elected
Ruth Kaprelian	113 votes	elected
Ludwig Stepanian	102 votes	elected
Ruth Haddon	94 votes	1st alternate
Gerald Kheboian	73 votes	

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Ludwig Stepanian, congratulated the newly-elected members, and extended his sincere gratitude and thanks to his Committee, and all those who shared the workload.

On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair thanked Mr. Stepanian and his Committee for a job well done.

Having noted that the 1979 Annual Assembly Minutes had not been approved, motion to accept the 1979 Parish Assembly Minutes was made, seconded and carried.

There being no further business at hand, it was moved that we adjourn the meeting. It was recommended that the reading of the minutes of the meeting be waived due to the length of same, and also, allow the secretary time to edit it in good form. Motion was made, seconded and passed to do so. The motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. was seconded and passed.

The closing prayer and blessing was given by Very Reverend Father Yeghishe Gizirian.

Respectfully submitted,

Very Reverend Yeghishe Gizirian

Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian

Very Reverend Yeghishe Gizirian
President

Gilbert Markarian
Gilbert Markarian
Chairman

Mary Arakelian

Mary Arakelian
Secretary