

## MINUTES ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY - 1982

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Church of Our Saviour, Worcester Massachusetts convened on Sunday, January 30, 1983 in the Church Hall proper immediately following the Church services.

The polls were opened at 11:15 A.M. for balloting for members of the Parish Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees. The polls were closed at 12:30 P.M. and lunch was served to all present by Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian with the help of the Nominating Committee.

On behalf of the Assembly Mr. Vahan Pogharian extended special thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian for a most delicious and enjoyable lunch and thereafter at 1:25 P.M. the meeting convened in the Church Hall under the Chairmanship of Mr. Vahan Pogharian with the Very Reverend Father Yeznig Balian, Pastor and President presiding. Reverend Deacon Onnig Terzian, Assistant Pastor was in attendance. Hayr Soorp led the Assembly in prayers after which the Chairman called for nominations and election of Chairman and Secretary for the Assembly. Mr. Francis Najarian was elected Chairman and Mr. Vahan Pogharian elected Secretary. It was noted that there were 93 members in attendance. The following items were on the agenda for Mr. Najarian to follow:

1. Election of Officers of the Assembly
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Reading of the minutes of previous Assembly
4. Report of Pastor
5. Report of the Parish Council
6. Report of the Auditing Committee
7. Reports of all Organizations
8. Approval of proposed 1983 Budget
9. Report on Parish House Study
10. Introduction of Stewardship Program
11. Major Fund Raising Project
12. New Business

Mr. Francis Najarian asked if there were any items of "New Business" that any member wished to add to the agenda. There being no new item under "New Business" the Agenda as shown was adopted. The minutes of the previous Assembly were read. It was brought to the Assembly's attention that Ms. Ruth Kaprielian was not contacted to be on the Auditing Committee elected in accordance with the motion moved and approved by the previous Assembly. Mr. Herbert Alexander representing the Auditing Committee apologized for the misunderstanding. Question was raised as to why the votes received by elected individuals were not listed next to their names. The Assembly was reminded that at a previous Assembly it was approved not to publish the numbers of votes, but the ledgers at the Parish Office with the proper votes would be available to those wishing to examine them. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion was carried unanimously.

The reading of the Annual Report of the Pastor was waived. A question was raised as to the function of the Fellowship Committee. Helen Bogosian, coordinator of the Fellowship Committee, explained that the Fellowship Hour following Church services in the Church Hall was instituted in November and received with enthusiasm and their duty was to schedule Fellowships. The report was accepted with commendation and appreciation.

The reading of the Parish Council Report was also waived and the Chair called for discussions and questions on a page by page review since all in attendance had copies. Parish Council was asked to elaborate on a few items listed under the heading of "Gifts and Purchases".

1. Preliminary stages for purchase of "Front Doors" and a "Van" through donations in process. Mr. Kasparian explained to the Assembly that the front doors of the Church facing Salisbury Street would be replaced with bronze doors, through donations. He also explained that \$15,000.00 was donated to the Church by Mrs. Hannah Kalajian for the purpose of purchasing a van to be used as seen fit for the Church. (The van has been ordered through Fashjian Motors at cost). A Committee is set up to establish guidelines and usage will be published in the Messenger. Expression of gratitude and appreciation for Mrs. Hannah Kalajian's generosity was adopted to enter in the minutes.
2. Referring to the original Church Sign on the front lawn, now replaced with a granite sign, Mr. Avedis Choolfaian asked if his name as the donor of the original sign would appear somewhere. Mr. Kasparian assured Mr. Choolfaian that it would.
3. New Telephone System - The Parishioners were informed that modern telephone equipment has been purchased and installed throughout the complex.

With regard to "some of the activities that were dealt with this year" on page 12 the following items were added:

1. \$2,000.00 Scholarship for Saint Nersess
2. Seven students attended Saint Nersess Summer Studies, a portion of the cost, \$647.00 came from Church funds:
3. \$100.00 presented to the Choir Scholarship Fund for music lessons.

There being no further comments, suggestions or additions, motion made, seconded and carried to accept the Parish Council Report as amended.

The Chair called for a report from the Auditing Committee; Mr. Herbert Alexander stated that the books had been audited and found in good order. At this time the Parish Council Chairman wished to acknowledge the services of Mr. Alexander for donating his expertise in investing the Church funds. Ms. Ruth Kaprielian raised a question as to how often should the accounts of the Parish Council be examined. Article 36 of the By-Laws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese) was brought to her attention:

"The Auditing Committee shall examine the accounts of the Parish Council at least annually and shall report its findings and recommendations to the Parish Assembly".

There being no further comments a motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Auditing Committee Report.

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

Senior Ladies Auxiliary - accepted as written  
Avak Group Report - Bazaar booth income corrected to read \$1,400.00.  
The Ekmalian Choir - Accepted with the correction, "Margaret E. Hagopian Memorial Concert".  
Armenian School - accepted as written.

Motion was made by Mr. Bartevo Bagdasarian, seconded and carried to gratefully acknowledge the services that Mrs. Macrouhi Adjeleian has given for teaching the Armenian language for the past 53 years. Mr. Van Aroian, Vice-Chairman of the Armenian School made a few comments about the status of the Armenian School. With the new staff under the coordination of Mr. Torkom Boyajian have been organizing the young students so as to match their reading and writing skills into roughly three equal skill levels one for each teacher. But have not been able to do the same with Armenian conversation as of yet because of the difficulty of involving the Armenian speaking children with English speaking children. But improvement is feasible and the school does more than teach language skills by creating a continuing atmosphere for the young to appreciate the heritage and social support of the Armenian community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: During the review of the Church School Report, the need for parent participation as well as the critical need for teachers was expressed by Reverend Deacon Onnig Terzian.

CULTURAL ORGANIZATION: Accepted as amended:

Financial report should show as follows:

Balance as of January 1, 1982			\$1,513.12
INCOME	1982	\$375.70	
EXPENSES	1982	<u>251.47</u>	<u>124.23</u>
Balance as of December 31, 1982			\$1,637.35

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT: Accepted as written.

WOMEN'S GUILD: Accepted with the following additions:

Additional activities to reflect under "The Guild Actively Participated in the following functions":

1. Women's Saint Day in March, 1982 in Providence, R.I.
2. Church Women United Day of Prayer
3. Visitation to the Armenian Home for the Aged in Jamaica Plain.

ACYOA SENIORS: Accepted as written.

ACYOA JUNIORS: Accepted as written.

MESSENGER: Special thanks were extended to the Staff of the Messenger for a job well done.

Upon completion of the review of the various reports a motion was made and seconded to accept same.

The Chair then turned to the Financial Reports as submitted by the Parish Council with regard to page 14, "1982 Statement of Income". It was explained that money received from all the Organizations after December 31st. will appear in the 1983 figures. It was pointed out that the pledged figures in the Actual Column was considerably greater than the Anticipated Figures. Mr. Zarvin Kasparian explained that this was due to the generosity and favorable response by our parishioners. It was further pointed out that the Actual Figures of the In-Lieu of-Flowers were considerably greater than the Anticipated which was due to the transfer of funds from the Cultural Center Fund which was closed.

With regard to Equipment Purchases Mr. Kasparian offered transparencies which disclosed the expenses.

With regard to Paine Webber Money Market Fund, question was raised whether they were Federally Insured. The Parish Council Chairman stated that none of the money market funds are Federally Insured, but our investment advisor being in the business was aware of the financial conditions on a daily basis therefore forfeiture by Paine Webber would be very rare.

With regard to page 16 - the following corrections were noted: The name of Varkin Hooloian to read Verkin Hooloian and the amount of \$540.00 for "Margaret E. Hagopian Memorial Fund" to read \$1,000.00. A further question was raised as to the meaning of "Mary Manoogian Outreach Fund". It was explained that this is a fund established in memory of Mary Manoogian by her sister for the purpose of helping needy parishioners.

The Financial Reports were accepted as corrected.

The proposed budget for 1983 was reviewed and further questions were raised as to the decreased anticipated interest income. Mr. Kasparian once again offered charts and due to declining interest rates the figures had to be adjusted. It was suggested that future proposed budgets be more specific on salaries and other services and the amounts be shown separately for the following services:

1. Secretary
2. Custodians
3. Choir Director
4. Organists and Soloists
5. Deacons

Also Clergy Insurance and Retirement expenses be shown separately. Mr. Kasparian also showed a chart showing the comparison of income and expenses from 1979 through 1982. It was brought to the Assembly's attention that income from Transfer and Interest Accounts are very vital for the Church treasury.

With regard to large amounts allocated to Building Maintenance, Mr. Ghevont Hagopian explained that the front part of the Church near the steps and the Cultural Center exterior walls require preventive maintenance.

There being no further questions or suggestions, motion made, seconded and carried to approve the 1983 budget as presented.

After reviewing the final reports of the Cultural Center Fund for the period January 1, through August 18, 1982 and Cultural Center Building Fund Cumulative Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from 1962 to 1982 motion was made, seconded and carried that the report be accepted. Thanks and appreciation were extended to Bart Bagdasarian for a job well done for the past 20 years.

[Referring to the motion made by Mr. John Kabian on January 27, 1980;

"To study the feasibility of demolition of the present parish house and replacement by a new administrative building adjacent to the Cultural Center Building facing Salisbury Street".

Mr. Hagopian read a Report of the Parish House Study Committee which consisted of Asbed Zakarian, Kazar Kazarian and Harry Dodakian. The Report made a comparison of the cost of renovating the existing structure and a proposed new structure submitted by Ramon Hovsepian. A lengthy discussion ensued with many points of view, both pro and con. At this point a motion was made by Berjoohe Zakarian, seconded and carried to accept the study as submitted. Mr. Suney Kachadoorian made a motion to table this Agenda Item and call a Special Parish Assembly to discuss it further. This motion was seconded and carried by the Assembly.

Continuing the Agenda, item 10, the Chair asked Hayr Soorp to explain the introduction of Stewardship Program:

Hayr Soorp explained because of ever increasing expenses for operation and expansion of programs and services, the Church is constantly in need of more funds. It will be difficult to "tax" the parishioners more and more in the form of dues. It was stressed the need of a new direction, which should increase the Church's income through means that are consistent and harmonious with the purpose and goal of the Church. For the Church means of achieving a goal are as important as the desired goal itself. The new approach should be Stewardship, which is a centuries old concept. We as stewards should make sure that a portion of our resources go to the Church. This practice is prescribed by the Bible and has been a tradition of the Armenian Church for centuries. This form of voluntary giving rather than ever increasing "dues" should constitute the larger portion of the Church's income. This concept will be developed and presented to the parishioners in the near future.

As to item 11, "Major Fund Raising Project", Mr. Kasparian informed the Assembly that new projects will be implemented to raise funds and the parishioners will be informed of same.

The Chair then called on Mr. Charles Sharigian to report the results of the balloting. Mr. Sharigian reported that 168 ballots were cast, the results of the election are as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL

Peter Naroian  
Roger Papelian  
Andrew Surabian  
Arthur Yagjian  
Asbed Zakarian  
John Balian 1st. Alternate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bart Bagdasarian, Jr.  
Bryan Davis  
Pamela Der Kazarian  
Norman Noorjanian  
Jenev Sanda  
Ara Heroian 1st. Alternate

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Tina Bilazarian  
Ruth Kaprielian  
Rose Simonian 1st. Alternate

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Charles Sharigian extended his sincere gratitude and thanks to his Committee and all those who shared the workload.

On behalf of the Assembly, Mr. Francis Najarian thanked Mr. Sharigian and his Committee for a job well done.

Motion was made by Arthur Elloian, seconded by Frances Elloian to include in the minutes the numerical votes each candidate obtained. Motion was defeated.

At this time Mr. Kenneth Krikorian suggested to look into the matter to encourage increased attendance at Parish Assemblies and voting.

Mr. Haroutune Kasparian suggested the following:

1. Items that the Church needs published in the Church Messenger.
2. To consider the possibility of combining the Sunday School and the Armenian School.

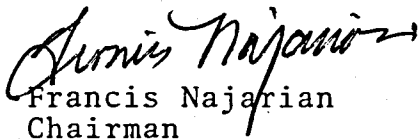
The closing prayer and blessing was given by Very Reverend Father Yeznig Balian. Hayr Soorp thanked the Chairman and the Secretary and the Assembly Committee for a job well done.

There being no further business before the Assembly, it was moved to adjourn the meeting and 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 meeting was adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Very Reverend Father Yeznig Balian  
Pastor and President



Francis Najarian  
Chairman



Vahan K. Pogharian  
Secretary