

## MINUTES OF 1985 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour convened January 27, 1985 immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and chaired by hold-over Chairman Francis Najarian.

Following prayer by Der Aved, the Chairman asked the Nominating Committee for presentation of a slate of candidates to officiate at the current assembly. Seth Bilazarian responded with the following:

Candidates for Chairman: Francis Najarian  
Gilbert Markarian

The Nominating Committee did not offer candidates for position of secretary and therefore called for nominations from the floor.

For Secretary: Bartevo Bagdasarian was nominated. There being no others, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Vote was affirmative.

The Assembly then proceeded to vote by secret ballot for the Office of Chairman only, since Bartevo Bagdasarian was duly declared elected by virtue of being the only candidate on the ballot. Results of the vote for Chairman confirmed that Gilbert Markarian was elected Chairman, whereupon the two persons took up their office.

Mr. Markarian, thanked the outgoing Chairman Francis Najarian for a job well-done, then commented upon the necessity of new and younger members of the Parish becoming involved in holding office so as to gain experience in church related matters and perpetuation of this heritage, our Church.

It was agreed that at 11:20 PM we would recess for the purpose of sealing the Ballot Box and to give time for the qualified members present, to vote on Parish Officers for the ensuing year. Accordingly, the Nominating Committee presented the following:

### FOR PARISH COUNCIL, 5 TO BE ELECTED

Dr. Robert G. Anusbigian  
Stephen Jorjorian  
Stephen K. Krikorian  
Peter H. Naroian  
Charles Sharigian  
Lutwig Stepanian  
Andrew Surabian  
Arthur Yagjian  
Asbed B. Zakarian

### FOR DIOCESAN DELEGATE, 6 TO BE ELECTED

Arsen Bajakian  
Seth Bilazarian  
Ghevont Hagopian  
Suney Kachadoorian  
Leon H. Kachadorian

John Merzigian  
George Migridichian  
Francis Najarian  
Roger Papelian  
Harry Sahagian  
Abraham Sivazlian  
Tara Stepanian

FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE, 5 TO BE ELECTED

Marion Aharonian  
Seth Arakelian  
Dr. Richard Bedrosian  
Barry Bilzerian  
Frances Elloian  
Joan Handleman  
Charles Hoogasian  
Sara Hovsepien  
Paul Krikorian  
Rosalie Yazijian

FOR AUDITING COMMITTEE, 2 TO BE ELECTED

John Balian  
George Krikorian, Jr.  
Madieros Mooshagian  
Elizabeth Naroian

Second session was called to order at 12:35 PM following voting period and lunch which was prepared by Mrs. Elizabeth Kazarian and her committee. Thanks were expressed to all of them.

The Nominating Committee was asked to adjourn with the Ballot Box which was unsealed by Fr. Terzian premitting them to proceed with tabulation of the vote.

The Agenda for this Assembly which had been prepared in advance was approved and accepted. See Exhibit A. The Chair called for items of new business under number 10 of the Agenda which will now be recorded and discussed at the proper interval. Five items of new business were offered and approved by majority vote for inclusion and they are as follows:

Number One: By Abraham Sivazlian

It was proposed that the Parish Council immediately persue the engaging of a qualified individual to assist the Pastor in the areas of Christian Education Programs for all levels such as adult and youth activities, programs and special projects at the discretion of the Pastor and the Parish Council.

Number Two: By Arthur Elloian

It is proposed that the Parish Council consider means of improving acoustics in the Cultural Center.

Number Three: By John Toromanian

That consideration be given to a Centennial Observance and reported at the next Assembly by the Parish Council or a committee appointed by them.

Number Four: By Berjoohie Zakarian

That consideration be given to convening the Annual Assembly at a date in February in order that there be time to assemble reports, publish them and forward to parishioners prior to the meeting.

Number Five: By Mark Markarian

That the Parish Council study the feasibility of providing easier access to the Church proper and the lower hall for elderly and incapacitated persons desiring to use the facilities.

At this point, in order to insure a quorum being present, a physical count determined that 140 persons were in attendance, with 10 additional persons involved in tabulating votes outside of the meeting for a total of 150.

A motion was made, seconded and voted affirmatively that:

Reading of the individual reports of the Pastor, Parish Council and various organizations of the Church be dispensed with but that each will be considered page by page and questions regarding them or information required by Parish members will be answered by the parties involved with the report.

The 1984 published Annual Reports are made a part of these minutes. Accordingly, the Chair called for questions on the minutes of the previous meeting and there being none were declared approved and accepted.

The Pastor's Report was considered, approved and accepted with thanks by the Assembly.

Consideration was next directed by the Chair to the Parish Council Report. A question was raised by Mr. Arthur Yagjian, member of the Parish Council, that there was not unanimity in Council deliberations regarding rehabilitation of the Parish House. He indicated that an excellent committee report had been prepared by Messrs, Alexanian, Stepanian and Migridichian on the project and suggested that this report be made available to the members present. Accordingly, Mr. Alexanian was asked to inform the members about their study of the matter. Mr. Alexanian presented a statistical and financial picture of repairs which in the opinion of the committee were immediately necessary to repair the building. Under consideration were the roof, siding and window replacement. They had inquired of several contractors about costs for these items and a composite analysis of these figures are presented in Exhibit B of these minutes.

The Committee did not attempt to make a conclusion since their charge had been to only study the rehab question and present their report. This has been done and the Council in the process of implementing those findings. After some discussion, the Chair ruled that the matter seemed to be a difference of opinion among the Parish Council members and as such was not a proper matter for the Assembly. There being no objections, the matter was dropped.

It was suggested that a solution to one of the concerns of the Council re: Married Couples and Young Peoples Groups, could be a supplemental committee to assist the Pastor in carrying out this assignment.

It was recommended that the "Outreach Fund" should appear with the name of Mary Manoogian as donor.

An explanation was given by Leon Kachadorian that the loss figure shown in Schedule H for the Picnic activity was offset by inventory of assets from that affair which have been used to advantage at other Church functions.

Several questions on the financial aspects of the Parish Council report were raised and answered by the Treasurer with satisfaction to the members. There being no other inquiries, the Parish Council report was approved and accepted by majority vote of those present.

The Auditing Committee report was accepted and typographical errors were noted in their names which had been published incorrectly. They should have read as follows: Henry Shooshan, Tina Bilazarian, Ruth Kaprelian and Norman Noorjanian.

Upon consideration and discussion the following list of reports from various organizations were approved and accepted with thanks by majority vote of the members present:

- Senior Ladies Auxiliary
- Avak Group
- Ekmalian Choir
- Church School
- Cultural Organization
- Library Committee
- Women's Guild
- ACYOA Seniors
- ACYOA Juniors
- Beano Activity

The Chair then opened discussion on the proposed Operating Budget of the Parish for the year 1985.

Mr. Harry Sogigian proposed that the budget be amended to show an increase of \$10,000.00 in pledges in order to fund a position or expenses that may be incurred to advance "Christian Education for Adult & Youth". Under this heading there is also to be added a line item under Disbursement in the Proposed Budget in the amount of \$10,000.00.

After some discussion, it was voted to amend the proposed budget by increasing PLEDGES by \$10,000.00 and adding an item under DISBURSEMENTS of "CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ADULT AND YOUTH" of \$10,000.00.

The amended budget in the total amount of \$204,000 was approved by majority vote of the assembly.

Chairman Gilbert Markarian then proposed that the items of New Business which had been offered earlier would now be taken up individually for consideration.

**New Business Reference No. One:**

A motion was made and seconded that a qualified person be engaged to assist the Pastor in carrying out the intentions of the proposal to provide "Christian Education for Adult and Youth".  
Vote was affirmative.

**New Business Reference No. Two:**

A motion was made and seconded that the Parish Council undertake the study to implement means of improving acoustics in the Cultural Center.  
Vote was affirmative.

**New Business Reference No. Three:**

A motion was made and seconded that the Parish Council consider a Centennial Year Celebration which may include:

- A. An invitation thru proper channels to His Holiness Vasken I Catholicos of All Armenians to attend the Centennial Year Celebrations of this Parish.
- B. An invitation to the Diocesan Assembly to convene in Worcester in 1990 in observance of our Centennial Year.
- C. The erection of a monument on land between the Church and Parish House dedicated to the Martyrs.
- D. The erection of an appropriate marker at a downtown location commemorating the spot where the first Badarak was held in America.
- E. To direct the Parish Council to create a committee to start work on the observance of our Centennial Year and to incorporate the existing committee of Harry Sogigian and Torkom Boyajian who are accumulating historical data for observance.

Vote was unanimously affirmative.

**New Business Reference No. Four:**

A motion was made and seconded that the next Annual Assembly be held in the middle or late February and to direct the Parish Council to prepare and release the Annual Reports at least two weeks before the Assembly so that the parishioners may be better prepared to discuss matters at the Assembly.

Vote was affirmative.

**New Business Reference No. Five:**

A motion was made and seconded that a feasibility study be made to determine a means of reaching the Church level and the Cultural Hall level without excessive steps to aid the elderly and the hand-icapped.

Vote was affirmative.

During an interim period waiting for the results of the election some comments were recorded as follows:

Mrs. Bulbulian suggested that the Parish Council make an effort to re-open the Armenian Language School. Citing the need for preserving language and that even though there may be a small enrollment it would be worthwhile.

It was suggested that the Diocesan Delegates be instructed to bid for the Diocesan Assembly in the Centennial Year.

Mr. Van Aroian suggested that the working committee of two people now working on a history of the Worcester Parish be implemented with additional personnel as the task is considered most important and should have more active participation.

Mr. Steve Krikorian, Church School Co-ordinator indicated that attendance this year showed an upward trend with an enrollment of 74 children of whom approximately 75% were in school each week. He mentioned that there was a continuing need for support by parents or anyone who might be of assistance to operate more efficiently.

Miss Tara Stepanian, Church School Co-ordinator also, spoke on behalf of the Sunday School mentioning particularly the need for teachers and assistants.

Louis Mikitarian briefed the Assembly on plans of the ACYOA for the Sports Weekend coming up in September this year and it having Worcester as host again, the first in thirty-three years. It was indicated that the Marriott Hotel would be headquarters, a gala dance is planned for Mechanics Hall and that the South High athletic facilities would be the location for the games. A request was made for Parish and community support to make this a successful affair.

The Chair now received the tabulated report of the Nominating Committee Chairman Seth Bilazarian as follows:

209 Ballots were cast.

In order of number of votes received are the following for Parish Council:

Asbed B. Zakarian	175	Votes
Lutwig Stepanian	135	"
Charles Sharigian	129	"
Arthur Yagjian	122	"
Dr. Robert Anusbigian	102	"
Peter Naroian	101	"
Stephen Jorjorian	79	"
Stephen Krikorian	63	"
Andrew Surabian	36	"

The first five were elected with the sixth as alternate.

In order of number of votes received are the following for Diocesan Delegate:

John Merzigian	159	Votes
Suney Kachadoorian	146	"
Seth Bilazarian	132	"
Francis Najarian	103	"
Abraham Sivazlian	97	"
George Migridichian	94	"
Chevont Hagopian	79	"
Leon Kachadorian	71	"
Tara Stepanian	66	"
Roger Papelian	65	"
Harry Sahagian	57	"
Arsen Bajakian	26	"

The first six were elected with the seventh as alternate.

In order of number of votes received are the following for Nominating Committee:

Marion Aharonian	120	Votes
Dr. Richard Bedrosian	119	"
Frances Elloian	100	"
Barry Bilzerian	97	"
Charles Hoogasian	94	"
Seth Arakelian	93	"
Paul Krikorian	92	"
Joan Handleman	88	"
Sara Hovsepian	60	"
Rosalie Yazijian	34	"

The first five were elected and the sixth is alternate.

In order of number of votes received are the following for Auditing Committee:

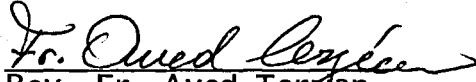
George Krikorian, Jr.	120	Votes
Elizabeth Naroian	99	"
Madieros Mooshagian	91	"
John Balian	68	"


The first two were elected and the third is alternate.

Gilbert Markarian expressed sincere thanks to the Parish Council for their endeavors during the past year, to the Nominating Committee for a job well-done and to all other in the Parish who have contributed to Parish life in the year 1984.

All of the items on the Agenda having been concluded, the Assembly adjourned with benediction by Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian  
Pastor & President

  
Gilbert Markarian  
Assembly Chairman

  
Bart Bagdasarian  
Secretary