

MINUTES OF 1986 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts convened on Sunday, February 16, 1986, in the Church Hall. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and Parish Council Chairman Asbed Zakarian.

Following a prayer by Der Aved, the Chairman called upon Mrs. Marion Aharonian, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, to announce the Chairperson and Secretary for the current assembly.

The Nominating Committee placed the name of Mr. Edward S. Bilzerian for Chairman. Additional nominations were ordered from the floor. There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed. The secretary, Mr. Barteve Der Bagdasarian, was asked to cast (1) one vote for Mr. Bilzerian to serve as Chairman of this Assembly.

The Nominating Committee did not offer any candidates for the position of secretary, therefore called for nominations from the floor. Mrs. Arpy Migridichian was nominated. There being no other nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Charles Sharigian, and seconded to elect Mrs. Migridichian as Secretary for the Assembly. Again, Mr. Barteve Der Bagdasarian was asked to cast (1) one vote for Mrs. Migridichian to serve as secretary.

The Nominating Committee presented the following candidates for the Parish Council:

Marsha Hovenesian
Gary Hovhanesian
Stephen Krikorian
Gilbert Markarian
Marilyn Markarian
Madieros Mooshagian
Peter Naroian
Arthur Surabian

Der Aved stated that in accordance with the by-laws (4) four more names were needed for candidates for the Parish Council Ballot.

Chairman Bilzerian asked for nominations from the floor. There being no other candidates nominated, Mr. Zarvin Kasparian moved that the Assembly accept the ballot for the Parish Council. Mr. Harry Sogigian seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The following names of candidates for the Nominating Committee were presented to the Assembly:

Seth Arakelian
Jennie Barsamian
Richard Bedrosian
Barry Bilzerian
Michael Markarian
Anna Mossessian
Tara Stepanian
John Toromanian

Chairman Bilzerian asked if there were any additional nominations for candidates for the Nominating Committee. Mr. Barry Bilzerian nominated Mr. Edward Atamian as a write-in candidate. There being no further candidates, nominations closed. Mr. Arthur Yagjian moved that we accept Mr. Atamian's name as a write-in candidate. Motion seconded and carried.

The names of the candidates for the Auditing Committee were presented as follows:

Bart Bagdasarian, Jr.
Vahan Pogharian

Chairman Bilzerian recognized Mrs. Marion Aharonian who nominated Mrs. Marjorie Mesrobian as a write-in candidate. There being no further nominations from the floor, Mr. Barry Bilzerian moved that we close nominations. Motion carried.

Chairman Bilzerian called for the adoption of the Agenda items, and New Business. There was no new business at this time. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The chair announced that voting would commence at 11:20 a.m. and terminate at 12:30 p.m.

The second session of the Annual Assembly was called to order at 12:40 p.m. following voting period and lunch. Chairman Bilzerian thanked Mrs. Frances Elloian and her committee for the lunch preparation.

One hundred twenty-two (122) eligible members were present at this time.

A suggestion was made by the Chair, and the Assembly agreed to waive the reading of the Minutes of the 1985 Parish Assembly, and of the individual organizational reports. The Chairman called for discussions, and questions on a page by page review, since all in attendance had copies of "The Annual Report, 1985" in advance.

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 1985

Miss Berjoohie Zakarian asked for an explanation as to the delay of the Annual Reports. It had been previously suggested that the completed reports be made available (2) two weeks prior to the Assembly for review by interested parishioners.

The Chair noted that this item be further discussed under New Business. A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly - 1985.

2. Annual Report of the Pastor

Miss Berjoohie Zakarian made a recommendation to insert the names of the ordained Acolytes in 1985. Der Aved stated that they were: Stephen Krikorian, Abel Santoian, Mark Solitro and Michael Surabian.

Miss Zakarian made a motion to include these names in the Pastor's Report. Motion seconded and carried.

Mrs. Sarah Bulbulian commented about the importance to preserve the Armenian Language and Culture, and that we must continue to provide educational programs for our youth.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Pastor's Report.

3. Parish Council Report

A question was raised to the Chair to further explain the investment in Zero Coupon Bonds. Mr. Jerry Stepanian stated that this investment varies in short/long term periods; the interest fluctuating between 7½ to 9%.

A question was asked by Mr. Arthur Elloian regarding the insurance coverage of the church property. Mr. Stepanian stated that we have currently a comprehensive package which includes all Fire and Liability in the amount of \$2,100,000.00.

A question was raised by Mr. Barte Der Bagdasarian regarding the background for the donation of (2) two wooden doors to St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Acton. Mr. George Migridichian and Mr. Asbed Zakarian stated that this donation was unanimously approved by the Parish Council.

The following corrections were noted and explained by Mr. Jerry Stepanian:

- a. Under Gifts and Donations: typographical error in the spelling of Mr. Steve Jorjorian's name.
- b. Capital Siding donation should read \$500.00 not \$400.00 as stated.
- c. Miss Berjoochie Zakarian commented that the Parish Council report and other reports by the various organizations had not been signed. Der Aved explained delays in printing and contacting all persons concerned a difficult task to obtain all signatures.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Parish Council Report.

4. Auditing Committee Report

The chair noted that the Auditing Committee has reviewed all the financial reports, and found them to be in good order.

The following items were discussed and explained for further clarification:

Statement of Income

1. Mr. John Toromanian reiterated that Baptisms in our church are performed free of charge. Any income derived from such, should be included under contributions.
2. Mr. Harry Sahagian raised a question regarding the Beano Account figures. According to Transfer Account (Schedule C) there appears to be a discrepancy of approximately \$1,000. Mr. Barte Der Bagdasarian and Mr. John Toromanian explained the difference is due to a transfer of funds for purchasing supplies through the church.

1985 Statement of Expenditures

1. Mr. Zarvin Kasparian requested that there be a change regarding the listing of Diocesan Assessment and Regionalization under the 1985 Statement of Expenditures to agree with the 1986 Proposed Budget. Mr. Kasparian made a motion to correct this statement to show a separate line item for showing Diocesan and Regionalization Assessment.
2. Mr. Arthur Elloian requested information regarding the S.B.A. Loan Interest. He was referred to Schedule "G" of the 1985 Statement of Financial Report which indicated the loan balance of \$32, 729.36.
3. Mr. John Toromanian requested information regarding the cost of the Parish House remodeling project. Mr. Stepanian responded by stating that we are withholding \$715.45 for additional repairs on the Parish House steps. The original contract was for approximately \$46,100 -- this payment was made in 1985. An additional \$9,000 was paid in 1986 to include repairs to the Carriage House.
4. Mr. Francis Najarian questioned the omission of a previously adopted budget item in 1985, ---this being \$10,000 for "Christian Education for Adult and Youth". Mr. Asbed Zakarian explained that the Parish Council was unable to find a qualified person to fill this position.

Mr. HARRY Sogigian stressed the importance of this program and would like to see continued effort to implement this much needed project.

Mr. Asbed Zakarian further stated that the omission of \$10,000 was an oversight, and that this correction will be amended in the 1986 Proposed Budget.

5. Mr. Vahan Pogharian questioned the amounts of the amended 1985 Budget of \$204,000 vs. \$206,000.

Mr. Zarvin Kasparian moved that the Parish Council review the actual expenses, and balance the budget to \$204,000.

The Assembly directed the Parish Council to correct the amounts in the next report.

6. Mrs. Eva Haroyan questioned the Secretary Auto Allowance Item. Mr. Stepanian clarified the actual 1985 amount of \$50.00, and the budgeted amount of \$2,800; the explanation being that we are not paying mileage for the present church secretary's car.
7. A further question was asked as to why the Organist gets more than the Choir Director. Mr. Stepanian's response was that the Organist is called upon more frequently for funerals and weddings.
8. Mr. Steven Migridichian questioned item of \$225.00 re: Building Permits and Licenses under Schedule "D". Mr. Stepanian made a clarification that this is a requirement to obtain permits/licenses for foods, liquors, rug sale and other such items.
9. Mr. Francis Najarian complimented the Parish Council on the fantastic results of the Rug Sale.

10. Mr. Arthur Elloian questioned the Meal Tax Refund of \$66.80 under Schedule "E". It was pointed out that this was an overcharge for one of the functions; this amount was returned.
11. Miss Bizer Simonian wanted further clarification on the Mary Manoogian Outreach Fund under Schedule "G". Mr. John Sagarian stated that this fund is to be used for needy people in our parish.
12. Mr. Zarvin Kasparian moved that the interest accumulated under Schedule "H" be pro-rated and credited according to the various line item investments rather than in one lump sum.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Financial Report with the amendments.

The Chair opened discussion on the following lists of reports from the various organizations:

1. Senior Ladies Auxiliary
2. AVAK Group
3. The Ekmalian Choir
4. Sunday Church School
 - a. Mr. John Toromanian praised the increase in enrollment of the Sunday School.
5. Cultural Organization
6. Library Committee
 - a. Mr. Jerry Stepanian questioned the number of books sold. Mr. Harry Sogigian responded by stating that approximately 500 books, the majority being "Worcester Memories", have been sold since 1984, 1985.
7. Women's Guild
 - a. In conjunction with the Women's Guild report, Mr. Vahan Pogharian raised a question regarding the transferred funds from the various church organizations to the Parish Council. Mr. Jerry Stepanian stated that all organizations were informed of this policy. In response to Mr. Pogharian's question, Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian explained that monies accumulated under Expenditures on the Women's Guild Report was partly for the refurbishing of the Ladies Lounge Area in the Church Hall.
8. ACYOA Seniors
 - a. Miss Berjohie Zakarian praised the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors for a very successful Sports Weekend.
9. Beano Activity Report
 - a. Mr. Asbed Zakarian praised the volunteer group of our parishioners who faithfully work on Thursday evenings. The Parish Council is grateful for their dedication. Mr. Charles Sharigian encouraged more of our parishioners to volunteer for work.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the reports with corrections.

The Chair opened discussion on the Diocesan Delegate Report. Mr. Bart Der Bagdasarian noted that a correction should be made to read...Submitted by the Diocesan Delegates (not Council).

Mr. Zarvin Kasparian commented on the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, stating that any funds donated can be put in a fund of the donor's choice and not necessarily allotted for the Diocese use. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept this report.

1986 Proposed Budget

The following questions regarding the Proposed Budget were directed to the Chair:

1. Mr. Harry Sogigian questioned the decrease for budgeted pledges from \$57,000 actual to \$50,000. Mr. Asbed Zakarian stated that the funds received were greater than expected. At the time the budget was generated, pledges were running substantially below the final actual rate.
Mr. Sogigian moved to change the pledge increase from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Motion seconded and carried.
2. Mr. Jerry Stepanian noted that under the Disbursements column Salaries & Other Services should read Salaries.
3. Mr. Francis Najarian reminded the Council to insert the \$10,000 line item for Christian Education for Adult & Youth.
4. A question was raised regarding Equipment Purchases -- Mr. Stepanian, Mr. Zakarian and Chairman Bilzerian stated that this money would be used for computers and a snowblower.
5. A question was raised regarding the Church Car Replacement item. Mr. Stepanian noted that the current car is donated by Atamian Motors. The Council cannot anticipate that this will always occur, and is looking down the road for replacement monies, therefore, funds are set aside for this purpose.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the budget.

General Information

A. Youth Ministry

Miss Tara Stepanian gave a report stressing the importance of our youths' involvement in the community. She emphasized the need for Religious and Cultural Programs, as well as volunteers who are willing to participate in various projects. Her recommendation was to search for an outside leader to instruct us to set up appropriate programs.

B. Commitment

Mr. Asbed Zakarian reiterated the need for our people to commit themselves, by becoming more involved in the church's mission.

C. Social Services

Miss Marilyn Markarian, representing the Parish Council, reported a need to provide services for the elderly and indigent of our community. Ms. Sona Hargrove and Ms. Sonia Gabeshian, presently working as professionals in this field, were invited to assist us with this project. Der Aved and the Parish Council are continuing to work on this project.

D. Regionalization

Mr. Stephen Panossian, from Cambridge, reviewed the concept of Regionalization--expressing the fact that the New England Parishes

will unite together, and give us a new identity. This will allow large and small parishes to interchange ideas, and build stronger ties.

E. 1990 Diocesan Assembly

Mr. Asbed Zakarian announced that this will be the 100th Anniversary of our Church, and we must make a definite commitment for hotel accommodations.

Discussion followed from the floor, a motion was made, seconded and carried to charge the Parish Council to establish a committee to begin planning to host the 1990 Assembly. Der Aved reiterated that 1990 is the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Church, and 1991 the 100th Anniversary of the consecration of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour in Worcester.

Mr. Jerry Stepanian asked if there would be a limit in expenses -- the Assembly agreed that it would be the responsibility of the Assembly Committee.

Mr. Harry Sogigian reported that he and Mr. Torkom Boyajian are working on compiling records for the history/background of our people and church. This group is searching for volunteers who can read Armenian to help with documentation.

Mr. Torkom Boyajian suggested that a book be published commemorating the 100th Anniversary of our church. He reported that an Ad Hoc Committee is working on this, and a report will be submitted to the Parish Council

New Business

1. Miss Berjoohie Zakarian brought up the fact that signatures should be on all future reports. In addition, the Annual Report should be made available (2) two weeks prior to the Assembly if possible.

Der Aved explained the difficult task of obtaining the signatures for all reports. He also pointed out that the 1985 Reports were available (1) one week prior to the Assembly Meeting which was a substantial improvement over the previous year. Every attempt will be made to comply with the (2) two week commitment.

2. Mr. Arthur Elloian, referring to the previous year's motion, asked for a status report regarding proposals made to make acoustical improvements in the Cultural Center Auditorium. Mrs. Zakarian responded that the Council is working on the feasibility and prices for such needed improvements.
3. Mr. John Tokomanian referred to a study which was to have been made regarding a chair-lift in the Church Hall for the Avaks. Mr. John Sagarian reported that several proposals were considered which could cost \$10,000 - \$20,000. It was agreed to drop this project.
4. Mr. George Migridichian questioned whether improvements to the interior portion of the Parish House would be considered at this time. Mr. Zakarian stated that the Council is not planning on any due to expenses anticipated on exterior work on the Cultural Center

5. Mr. Zareh Markarian expressed his thanks to the Committee who worked on the Parish House renovations -- Mr. Nick Alexanian, Mr. George Migridichian and Mr. Jerry Stepanian.
6. Mr. Stepanian expressed a necessity to establish a Needs Committee to look ahead for improvements/changes.
7. Mrs. Dorothy Yagjian brought to the attention of the Assembly that the interior of the church is peeling and needs to be painted.

At this time, the Chair received the tabulated report from the Nominating Committee. Mrs. Marion Aharonian, Chairperson, read the results as follows:

166 Ballots were cast:

PARISH COUNCIL

Gary Hovhanesian
 Stephen Krikorian
 Gilbert Markarian
 Marilyn Markarian
 Madieros Mooshagian
 Peter Naroian
 Marsha Hovenesian - First Alternate

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jennie Barsamian
 Barry Bilzerian
 Anna Mossessian
 Tara Stepanian
 John Toromanian
 Seth Arakelian - First Alternate

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Bart Bagdasarian, Jr.
 Vahan Pogharian

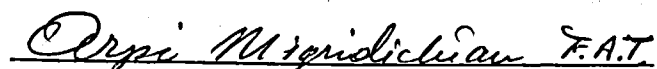
There being no further business before the Assembly, Chairman Bilzerian asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Der Aved Terzian closed the meeting with a prayer at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


 Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor


 Edward S. Bilzerian, Assembly Chairman


 Arpy Migridichian, Secretary