

MINUTES OF 1988 PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, Massachusetts convened on Sunday, February 7, 1988, in the Church Hall. The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian presiding and chaired by holdover, Mr. Edward S. Bilzerian.

Following the prayer by Father Aved, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee Mr. L. Jerry Stepanian placed in nomination Mr. Edward S. Bilzerian as Chairman for the Assembly. Nominations from the floor were asked for. With none forthcoming a motion was made to close the nominations. The Secretary cast one vote for Mr. Bilzerian to serve as the Chairman of the Assembly.

The Nominating Committee offered the name of Mrs. Agnes Sahagian for the position of Secretary of the Assembly. Nominations from the floor were asked for and with none forthcoming a motion was made to close the nominations. The Secretary cast one vote for Mrs. Sahagian to serve as the Secretary of the Assembly.

Chairman Bilzerian presented the Agenda for the meeting and offered an addition to the Agenda as a new item #9-A "By-laws of the Memorial Endowment Fund of the Church of Our Saviour".

A motion was made by Joan Handleman and seconded by Rose Aslanian to accept the Agenda as amended. So voted.

The Chairman then presented Mr. L. Jerry Stapanian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee who presented the following names as nominees for a seat on the Parish Council:

Edward Atamian
John Balian
Garry Degermajian
Gary Hovhanesian
Zareh (Mark) Markarian
Marilyn Markarian
Madieros Mooshagian
Mark Der Mugrditchian
Gladys Nordigian

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no additional nominations, the Assembly accepted the list as presented.

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

Pauline Agazarian
Marion Aharonian
Miss Rose Aslanian
Charlotte Calfaian
Joan Handleman
Vahe Jardarian
Pamela Der Kazarian
George Migridichian
Louis Mikitarian, Jr.
Scott Najarian

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to close nominations.

Nominees for the Auditing Committee were:

John Merzigian
Vahan Pogharian
Lutwig Stepanian
Asbed Zakarian

Nominations from the floor were opened. There being no nominations, the nominations were closed and the list accepted as presented.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch and elections.

Balloting was closed at 12:30 p.m. and the second session of the Parish Assembly began.

The counting of members in good standing for the meeting showed 113 present. ✓

Chairman Bilzerian dispensed with the reading of the 1987 Annual Report, since at the request of the Assembly last year, the report was available two weeks prior to today's Assembly and was distributed.

The Chairman reviewed the report page by page asking for corrections and modifications.

The following corrections are to be made with regard to the minutes:

Page 4 - with regard to the Stained Glass Committee Report - A clarification was made by Gary Hovhanesian that the names of the original donors will remain as is and an appropriate plaque will be provided for all new donors for the Stained Glass Project.

After the review was completed a motion made by Abraham Sivazlian and seconded by David Tateosian to accept the minutes as amended.

With regards to the Diocesan Delegates Report, page 9 and 10, it was stated that Tony Barsamian's name is Anthony Barsamian. The correction is so noted.

The Pastor's Report - corrections were noted first on page 19 -- "Cultural Organization" - remove Michael Kermoyan and add Vahan Khanzadian's name. Then on page 20 -- the name of Jean Sunonian should be added to the list of appreciations for the care of the liturgical vestments.

There being no other corrections or omissions in the Pastor's Report, it was so voted to accept.

Annual Report of the Parish Council

The following questions were addressed to Gary Hovhanesian, Parish Council Chairman.

Page 21 - item B - Francis Najarian asked for clarification of the emphasis on "the proper maintenance of the Cultural Center surface". The response from Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian was that all present and new Parish Council members now and in the future should be aware of the proper maintenance required to the outside surface, in order to maintain the beauty of the building and to keep these costs from escalating into a major project.

Item C - correction in the word "hardward" should be noted as "hardware".
(a typing error)

Item D - Cecil Aslanian asked for clarification of the security and fire alarm system as to its capabilities. Response from Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian was that the security system which is installed in the access way and entranceway includes a fire alarm. He also explained that there are six (6) zones that blanket the complex and monitors movement when the system is activated.

Special thanks were extended by Chairman Bilzerian at this point to Peter Der Kazarian for snow removal and Henry Shooshan for locksmith work. He asked that this be added to the Parish Council Report.

Page 23 - Item regarding Endowment fund - John Toromanian questioned the omission of the "Margaret Thomasian Fund". Chairman Bilzerian directed him to page 30, schedule H.

Zarvin Kasparian asked about the whereabouts of the security system purchased previously -- response from Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian was that since it was not adequate for our need it is in storage and not in use.

Page 24 - Item 5 - Francis Najarian asked for an explanation of that item. Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian stated that the Parish Council hopes to provide a shelter for the Parish House and a canopy for the steps of the Church.

An addition to the projects on Page 24 were the installation of the Carillon Chimes donated by Aroosiag Najarian.

With no further questions or additions, Chairman Bilzerian continued on to:

The Parish Council Auditing Committee Report

Zarvin Kasparian questioned the reduction of pledges in comparison to 1986 (page 25). Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian stated that the only reason was that paid pledges were down. Scott Najarian pointed out that the age between 18-30 were never approached with regards to dues.

Arthur Yagjian stated that there had been no canvassing for many years.

Joan Handleman mentioned that in the past she volunteered and made phone calls along with many personal contacts for those negligent in their dues. Positive follow-up is needed if we are to improve our membership. The Assembly Chairman stated that the consensus of the Parish Assembly is that a program be established in order to improve the membership in our Parish.

Zarvin Kasparian stated that the amount of money is not what counts, that parishioners were there, but unaware of their obligations to the Church. A Stewardship Program is most essential with future benefits for all.

Arthur Surabian, Assistant Treasurer, reported that since we are on a cash basis accounting system, last minute dues collected are reported in the year of collection, thus the fluctuation of the pledges.

Chairman Bilzerian agreed that a better program should be considered with the help of the parishioners.

Anthony Barsamian stated that there is a need to have available complete records of families in our Parish including birthdays, wedding days, etc.

Der Hayr noted that a volunteer had started to collect and categorize the records pertaining to Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

A motion was made and so noted to correct the combined expense report of the Diocesan and Regional reports on pages 25 and 26, as stated by Zarvin Kasparian. The Diocesan Assessment and Regional Assessment were to be separated.

Arthur Surabian, Assistant Treasurer stated that this would be corrected for 1988.

Arthur Yagjian asked about the amount of our Diocesan dues.

Assistant Treasurer Surabian stated that although the actual amount was not available, it was concluded on page 26, \$30,630.00 was paid to the Diocese, since no Regional Assessments had been asked.

Page 26 - Comparative Statement of Expenditures

A question was raised by Zarvin Kasparian as to the actual salary of our clergy. Assistant Treasurer Arthur Surabian explained that Der Hayr's gross salary was \$22,500 and not \$18,739 as shown on page 26. A motion was made by Mr. Kasparian and seconded by Arthur Yagjian to correct the payroll salaries to be the gross and not net as stated in the above disbursement report as net. The motion was passed.

Organist Irene Shooshan questioned the amount shown as Organist Salary. Der Hayr responded that a correction on Page 26 should read organists and soloists. These accounts will be separated in the future.

Nancy Hovhanesian asked if the Auditing committee was aware of these errors. Chairman Bilzerian for the Auditing Committee stated that they were.

Page 27 - Gifts - Memorial Biographies

Isabel Sahagian noted that the donation by Educational Society of Malatia was to the Armenian School.

Page 26 - Comparative Statement of Expenditures

George Migridichian questioned the increase of the water bill in 1986 of \$612. to \$1718. in 1987, a difference of \$1,100. Arthur Surabian's response was that the water rates and usage had increased.

Page 29 - With regard to item listed as "Summer Project" the sum of \$2,200. needed to be identified at the request of Elda Malesky.

Chairman Bilzerian stated that it was the amount given to Michael Findikyan, Seminararian hired during the summer months.

Mr. Hovhanesian also pointed out that on Page 29, Schedule F - "Organ Chimes" should be corrected to read "Carillon Chimes".

Also on Page 29 - line item - "Guild Picnic", Betty Sheehan asked for an explanation for the listed amount of \$77.07. Arthur Surabian stated he did not know but an answer would be given to the Women's Guild.

Page 32 - Schedule K - Cecil Aslanian asked for an explanation of "cubes". Edward J. Bilzerian, Parish Council Member, responded in full detail to the question.

Arthur Yagjian questioned the portfolio in light of the October stock price collapse. Parish Council Chairman Hovhanesian explained that since the Church had invested conservatively we were not severely impacted.

Committee Reports were then reviewed.

Senior Ladies had no corrections or questions.

The Avaks report had no questions or corrections.

The Ekmalian Choir also had no corrections or questions.

The Sunday School report had no questions or corrections.

The Cultural Organization had no corrections or questions.

The Library Committee report had no corrections or questions.

The Women's Guild report was accepted with no corrections or questions.

The newly formed Men's Club was praised by Francis Najarian for the excellent job they are doing.

The ACYOA Juniors report had no corrections or questions

The Worcester ACYOA Senior Chapter report was accepted without any questions or corrections.

Beano comments were made by Anthony Barsamian asking for much needed help.

Mr. Bilzerian, Chairman of the Parish Assembly commented that all the organizations should be commended for their efforts and support of the church.

Parish Assembly Chairman Bilzerian made mention that since the Annual Report and Budget are required to be available two weeks prior to the scheduled assembly meeting, the Assembly should be scheduled at a later date next year. An early meeting does not allow enough time to audit the books effectively. Also the importance of completing the organizational reports well in advance was emphasized.

Item 9-A - Memorial Endowment Fund (an additional agenda item)

A draft (a copy attached to these minutes) was distributed to the Parish along with the Annual Report for discussion and approval to adopt the Memorial Endowment Fund By-laws by the Church of Our Saviour. Open discussion began addressed to Mr. Hovhanesian, Chairman of Parish Council. Mr. Bilzerian, Chairman of the Assembly stated that this was a very important matter and should be fully understood by all. Mr. Hovhanesian also stated the Parish Council wishes were to safe guard the donors. Der Hayr expressed his feelings, pros and cons and pointed out some contradictions of some of the articles of the By-Laws.

Following much discussion a motion was made by Cecil Aslanian and seconded by George Krikorian to accept the By-Laws as presented to the Assembly. The motion was carried, 53 to 22.

The Chairman then asked that a re-assessment of the newly accepted by-laws be further studied and the Nominating Committee present a slate for the Memorial Endowment Committee members, as provided in Article 3.3 and to be presented at a special Parish Assembly to be called early this year. It was so approved.

Agenda Item 10 - 1988 Proposed Budget

A question was raised in respect to the "Building Maintenance" line amount of \$40,000. as to what this consisted of. Mr. Hovhanesian responded that he did not know the actual costs for the projected projects: the Heating System, the Cultural Center Thermal and Acoustic Insulation Project and lastly the painting of the inside of our Church, were part of the Maintenance Program.

George Migridichian questioned why the Insurance could not be listed as one single line item. The Parish Council Chairman responded that Gil Markarian and Bart Bagdasarian were working on these line items to be fed into the computer.

A question was asked in regards to the \$10,000. proposed for "Youth Ministry". Der Hayr stated he was constantly in search of an individual. Perhaps if the Seminary were nearer we could have utilized their assistance, but due to the traveling to Worcester it was not feasible.

Scott Najarian thought perhaps hiring several outsiders might accomplish the task.

Arthur Elloian asked what the line item "Rental Allowance" meant. Arthur Surabian stated it was a housing allowance for Der Hayr's home.

George Krikorian made a motion to approve the 1988 Proposed Budget. It was seconded by Hazel Eljanian and so voted.

Agenda #11 - General Information

Gary Hovhanesian, Parish Council Chairman, announced that the Accounting Firm of Herb Alexander was providing assistance in programming the computer - the account headings which will soon be available for auditing.

He also read to the Assembly a thorough informational introduction with regards to the Cultural Center Thermal and Acoustic Insulation Project. Questions that were raised, Gary answered to the best of his ability.

A motion was made and so voted to go ahead with this project.

There being no "Old Business" the Parish Assembly Chairman continued on to "New Business".

100th Anniversary - Der Hayr reported that documents were to be micro-filmed, along with the job of categorizing the documents.

Thoughts of purchasing the Old Laurel Street Church is being looked into by the New England Diocesan Council in time for the 100th Anniversary.

Jerry Stepanian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the names of those who were elected to the Parish Council. (192 Ballots were cast)

Edward Atamian
Garry Degermajian
Gary Hovhanesian
Marilyn Markarian
Madieros Mooshagian
Gladys Nordigian
Alternate - Zareh Mark Markarian

The following were elected to the Nominating Committee:

Miss Rose Aslanian
Charlotte Calfaian
Vahe Jardarian
George Migridichian
Louis Mikitarian, Jr.
Alternate - Scott Najarian

The newly elected Auditing Committee is:

John Merzigian
Asbed Zakarian
Alternate - Ludwig Stepanian

The Chair expressed personal appreciation to Mrs. Rose Aslanian and her committee in the preparation of the delicious luncheon.

New Business

Scott Najarian presented to the Assembly a proposal to direct the Parish Council to create a new rate for full-time Student Church dues.

Arthur Yagjian questioned our right to charge \$10.00.

It is so noted that we have a number of College Students. Scott's proposal, as read was to charge a 10% minimum (1988 - \$10.00) to these students.

Zarvin Kasparian stated from the By-Laws of the Diocese the amount is not stated, but is a minimum of \$25.00.

Edward J. Bilzerian stated and read the by-laws, page 9, paragraph 6 -

"Every member of the Parish, 18 years of age or over, shall pay to his (or her) Church and annual due, the amount of which shall be determined by the Diocesan Assembly. Such amount may be increased, but not decreased by the Parish Assembly."

Scott further amended his proposal. The amount of \$25.00 annual dues for full time students.

A motion was made, seconded, and so voted.

Suney Kachadoorian mentioned that due to the fact there were no calendars sent from the Diocese this year, he suggested we prepare our own calendar. It could have monthly pictures of organizations, along with calendar events through out the year.

Assembly Chairman Bilzerian thought it was a good idea and asked Suney to look into the feasibility. He agreed.

Bizer Simonian asked if an absentee ballot could be established for those who are unable to attend the Annual Assembly.

Response from Parish Assembly Chairman Bilzerian was that this was against the present by-laws, but would look into it.

Parish Council Chairman Gary Hovhanesian read to the Assembly the following preamble on "Memorial Committee":

Memorials Committee

Preamble:

It has become obvious to me during the last two years that our Church administrations have been lax in the area of memorial and gift administration and the establishment of archives, communications with donors and in general maintaining a historical base for our gift programs. Up to now most gifts of all kinds have been acknowledged in one way or another but there is no place where a person can look for dates of donations, names of donors or memorials. As we look around the Church we see nameplates and we note omissions also, not all donations are readily visible or apparent and last but not least cash donations are shown nowhere except in the Annual Report for the current year.

We have an obligation to all individuals who donate gifts of all kinds to the Church to organize and maintain an archival system so that our successors will have some acquaintance with their past.

To this end I move that the Parish Assembly endorse and indeed approve the establishment of a committee whose life will transcend that of the Parish Council terms in a rotating manner much the same as in the endowment fund. In this manner a measure of continuity will hopefully carry on over the years, practices and policies could be more uniform and less subject to the whims of councils

I further propose that this committee concern itself only with administration, report to the Parish Assembly, have its own rules of operation, handle no money, all funds being handled through the office of treasurer and reported on that office's report.

I would further suggest that this committee be known as the Memorials and Gifts Standing Committee.

Garabed Hovhanesian

A motion was made and passed.

Arthur Elloian would like to have the wording changed on the listing of the ballot to state:

"Vote Up To"

Chairman Bilzerian noted the request and referred to the Nominating Committee.

Bizer Simonian would like the Honor Roll placed in a better location. This was noted by Parish Assembly Chairman Bilzerian and directed to the Parish Council for consideration.

The Parish Council was asked to consider overhead fans in the Church and kneelers and cushions.

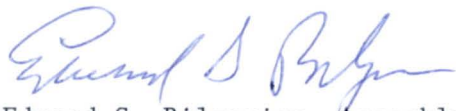
At 4:00 p.m. Suney Kachadoorian made a motion to adjourn the Assembly and seconded by Irene Shooshan.

Der Hayr Aved Terzian closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Fr. Aved Terzian, Pastor



Edward S. Bilzerian, Assembly Chairman



Agnes Sahagian, Secretary