

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

The ninth Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:15 p.m. on February 7, 1982, at St. James Armenian Church, 55 Lincoln Avenue, Harrison, N.Y. After the Invocation by Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, pastor, Alice Shimshidian, Chairwoman of the Nominating Committee, nominated Martha Gurahian as Parish Assembly Chairwoman and Ellen Ishkanian as Assembly Secretary. There being no other nominations from the floor, the Assembly unanimously voted for the people presented.

Chairwoman Shimshidian then presented the nominations for Parish Council. She explained that the Committee had had great difficulty getting people to agree to run for Parish Council and that only six people were being nominated to fill six positions. Ara Shimshidian and Avedis Sakalian were nominated from the floor, but both declined. A motion was made and seconded that the Secretary cast a ballot for the six nominees. Chairwoman Shimshidian then read the nominees for Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee.

Assembly Chairwoman Gurahian thanked the Nominating Committee for their work and asked the dues paying members to cast their ballots and that everyone read the annual reports of the various church organizations while waiting for the voting to be completed.

When the voting had been completed, Ellen Ishkanian read the minutes of the Eighth Annual Parish Assembly which were accepted as read.

Der Karekin then read his annual report, amending it to include a special note of gratitude to outgoing Parish Council Chairman Ara Shimshidian for his distinguished service and to Judge Vincent Gurahian and Richard Sarkisian.

Der Hayr's report was gratefully received by Chairwoman Gurahian, who passed on the comments of Diocesan Assembly delegates that we are fortunate to have Der Karekin as our priest. Grace Bozian led the Assembly in a standing round of applause.

Ed Essayan, Parish Council Secretary, read the Parish Council minutes, noting two corrections: John Wolohojian was the Assistant Treasurer and Hagop Cetinkaya an advisor. Mike Pisani suggested that the minutes be amended to include mention of the Women's Guild's role in helping with the Annual Picnic. The minutes were gratefully accepted as corrected.

Judge Vincent Gurahian, delegate to the Diocesan Assembly, reported that the Assembly voted to continue unity talks more aggressively and had elected Der Hayr to the Diocesan Council.

At this point, the Assembly Chairwoman called for a motion dispensing with the reading of the other Church organization reports. The motion was carried and the Chairwoman gratefully acknowledged receipt of the reports.

The Financial Report was given by Parish Council Treasurer Garo Bashian. He point out that 11% of this year's income is from interest and that the Parish Council feels too much of our income is coming from "outsiders" through rug sales, bazaars, etc. These sources of income are too uncertain. The number of pledging members must be increased to provide a sounder financial base for our church. The proposed budget for 1982 of \$85,000 was unanimously approved.

carried and the Chairwoman gratefully acknowledged receipt of the reports.

The Financial Report was given by Parish Council Treasurer Garo Bashian. He point out that 11% of this year's income is from interest and that the Parish Council feels too much of our income is coming from "outsiders" through rug sales, bazaars, etc. These sources of income are too uncertain. The number of pledging members must be increased to provide a sounder financial base for our church. The proposed budget for 1982 of \$85,000 was unanimously approved.

Next Garo reported on renovation of the kitchen in the Parish Hall. Six thousand dollars has been spent so far and another estimated \$6,000 will be needed to finish the job. Judge Gurahian made a motion to "approve, retroactively, the transfer of \$6,000 from the Building Fund to the Operating Fund and further approves the transfer of an additional sum, up to \$6,000, from the Building Fund to the Operating Fund for use in renovation of the kitchen in the Parish House." The motion was seconded and passed.

Pauline Babakian reminded members that Souren Feshjian is still pledging \$5 for every \$10 of Building Fund money raised.

At this point the election results were announced. Forty eight dues paying members cast their ballots, and Der Hayr reported at least 10 people had called him to say they wanted to attend but would be out of town. The results:

Parish Council Re-elected were Paul Bashian, Greg Chamourian, Ben Tepikian.
Newly-elected were John Boyadjian, Sam Gabrielain, Martha Gurahian.

Auditing Committee Ann Boghosian, Avedis Sakalian, and Rose Derdiarian*
*tied with Anita Essayan who conceded

Nominating Committee Gary Bashian, Ara Ishkanian, Aida Pisani, Karen Sirabian.

The Assembly was then opened for new business. Jack Hachigian, Chairman of the Planning and Building Fund Committee, requested up to \$3,000 from the Building Fund to 1) survey and locate existing buildings and topography of land and 2) explore service facilities (water, sewage, etc.) He also asked that all Church organizations survey their needs for today, five years from now, and 10 years from now. Unanimous approval was given to a motion to appropriate up to \$3,000 as needed from the Building Fund for survey and site plan for future needs analysis.

Outgoing Parish Council Chairman Ara Shimshidian said that though he was leaving the Parish Council, he "will be back." He made a plea for more youth and female involvement in the Church and extended his thanks to Teretzgin for her work in the Sunday School.

Der Hayr extended appreciation to the Assembly Chairwoman, Martha Gurahian, and the Assembly Secretary, Ellen Ishkanian. The Assembly adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Martha Gurahian

Martha Gurahian
Assembly Chairwoman

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ishkanian

Ellen Ishkanian,
Secretary

Fr. Karekin Kasparian
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian
Pastor-President

