

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
of the
ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

January 25, 1976

After an invocation given by Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, the annual Parish Assembly came to order under the chairmanship of Puzant Sirabian at 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hartsdale.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Edward Essayan, announced the names of Vincent Gurahian and Ara Shimshidian as candidates for the position of Chairman of Parish Assembly and Grace Cassidy (who declined) and Ann Der Boghosian for the position of Secretary. Grace Cassidy thereupon read the minutes of the last Parish Assembly before the meeting was turned over to the newly elected chairman, Ara Shimshidian and Ann Boghosian as Secretary. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by George Davidian and seconded by Edward Essayan.

Mimeographed copies of the Annual Parish Assembly Agenda and individual organizational reports were then distributed among the members present.

Upon verification of eligibility, voters cast their ballots for 6 members on the Parish Council, 5 members on the Nominating Committee, and 3 members on the Auditing Committee.

Before balloting commenced, Edward Essayan cautioned the members to be careful not to cast any votes in excess of the allowable number as it would automatically invalidate that portion of the ballot. After all ballots had been cast, a three-member committee consisting of James Cassidy, Puzant Sirabian, and Valerie Goekjian were instructed to tally the votes.

During the interim period, all annual reports of the individual church organizations were read commencing with a very comprehensive report from our pastor, Father Kasparian.

The order of these reports were as follows:

1. Pastor's Annual Report given by Father Kasparian.
2. Parish Council Report read by Ara Ishkanian, Secretary. Apkar Omartian, Chairman of the Parish Council, offered his special thanks and appreciation to all the hard-working members of the Council who served with unstinting dedication, both day and night, in an effort to reach our projected goals.
3. St. Nersess Armenian Community School of Westchester Report was made by Mrs. Alice Shimshidian, Vice Chairlady.

4. The Church Choir Report by Mrs. Mary Cachoian, Chairlady. At the time Edward Essayan offered his sincere thanks for all the members of the choir for their really excellend performance Sunday after Sunday.
5. Mr. and Mrs. Club Report by Ed Dorian, Secretary. Father Kasparian suggested that Mr. Vahe Sahagian's name be added on this report as instructor of the Armenian folk dancing evening^theld in November.
6. Armenian Church of Westchester Youth Group Report submitted by David Essayan, past Chairman. He also supplemented his report by adding the following activities participated in: Bowling Party in January; Ice Skating in February; Ski Trip information available to all ski enthusiasts; Church readings at Christmas and Easter; Participation in Martyr's March, and assisting at Annual Church Picnic. A treasury balance of \$215.60 was also reported.
7. Women's Guild Annual Report was read by Ann D. Boghosian, Secretary.
8. Building Fund Committee Report was read by John Babakian, Chairman. At this time quite a lengthy discussion ensued on the status and operation of the Building Fund Committee. After airing a great number of controversial statements, some dealing with semantics and some with authority, Der Hayr recommended for the sake of peace and proper action, that the first paragraph read thusly: The Building Fund Committee of the Armenian Church of Westchester will complete its first full year in February 1, 1976. It has operated under the Jurisdiction of the Parish Council. After some continued discussion, a motion was finally made by George Sanossian and seconded by Grace Cassidy to delete the first paragraph of the Building Fund Report.
9. Financial Statement of Armenian Church of Westchester Report was submitted by George Sanossian. After the reading of each of the three columns of the Financial Statement, Ed Dorian raised some questions pertaining to the omission of some of the totals. He was informed that this was so only because some of the figures are a close approximation and not the actual to-the-penny amounts.

Several members continued to question what certain figures represented in certain columns. At this point, Apkar Omartian reported that, prior to this meeting, in preparation of the Financial Report, a line-for-line form was used and ~~and~~ that perhaps it might be advisable to restructure the entire format of this report, refer it back to the Parish Council, and then resubmit it to our membership at a later date. This idea was then officially placed in the form of a m^otion and voted upon.

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The next important agenda item dealt with the question of increasing our annual church dues. Apkar Omartian stressed the necessity of increasing our dues from \$15 to \$25 per person. After some discussion, John Babakian made a motion, seconded by John Vakassian, to increase our dues to \$25 effective immediately.

A motion accepting the 1976 Budget was made by George Guendjoian and seconded by Puzant Sirabian.

The final results of the voting which took place earlier were announced by James Cassidy as follows:

Members of Parish Council for 1976 - (6)

Re-elected members: Pauline Babakian
Ed Dorian (White Plains)
Edward Essayan
Apkar Omartian
George Sanossian

Newly elected: Vincent Gurahian

Members of Nominating Committee for 1976 - (5)

Re-elected members: John Babakian
Rose Derdarian

Newly elected: Alice Bogosian
Ed Dorian (Eastchester)
Malcolm Shadoian

Members of Auditing Committee for 1976 - (3)

Grace Cassidy
Diane Davidian
Ara Shimshidian

Rose Egarian was interested in being updated on the status of our search for building sites in Westchester. John Babakian was able to report briefly that there is a piece of property located in Elmsford consisting of 11 acres with a very large older home which the committee is very seriously considering. Thereupon, Edward Essayan gave even further details regarding this particular site.

A final report indicating a total profit of \$3,964.92 resulting from the Lili Chookasian Gala Benefit Concert was given by George Davidian.

Sincere appreciation was expressed by the chairman to Pauline Babakian and all the women who were responsible for the light luncheon prepared prior to the meeting and also to Mrs. Aghavni Sahagian for her delicious Choereg.

Der Hayr urged all those present to consider seriously joining any one of the church organizations. He extended his appreciation to all of the secretaries and chairpersons, past and present. Der Hayr concluded by offering his congratulations to all the newly elected individuals and wished them good luck in the new year.

The meeting was adjourned after a benediction given by Father Kasparian at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann D. Boghosian
Ann Der Boghosian, Secretary

January 25, 1976

Cya G. Simplician
Chairman

Rev. Karekin Kasparian
Pastor