

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY- FEBRUARY 7, 1988

The Fifteenth Annual Parish Assembly of St. James Armenian Church of Westchester commenced at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday, February 7, 1988. The meeting was called to order, and Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian opened with prayer. Judge Vincent Gurahian, last year's Assembly Chairman, first determined whether or not a quorum was present. The membership roll was called, and 60 members were present. Our parish has 111 paid members. As a minimum of 50 members was needed to constitute a quorum, there were indeed a sufficient amount of members present.

Ara Ishkhanian, the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, then took the floor. He reminded the assembly that paid members could only vote. He then stated that the Nominating Committee place Edward Dorian, Jr. to chair the Parish Assembly, and Elizabeth Derderian as secretary. As there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made to close the nominations, and was seconded.

The following twelve Parish Council candidates were submitted by the Nominating Committee: Ohan Bas, Edward Essayan, Lionel Galstaun, Mark Derderian, Toros Mangassarian, Dan Mushegian, Norayr Ohanian, Vahe Missirian, Alice Vakassian, Noimik Poulatian, Simpad Salbashian, Zaven Adourian. There were no further nominations from the floor, and a motion was made and seconded that the nominations for Parish Council be closed. Only six were to be elected.

The Nominating Committee candidates numbered seven, with only four to be elected. They were as follows: Anahid Birnbaum, Elise Bas, Alice Kaladjian, Rose Darien, John Boyajian, Aida Pisani, Ann D. Boghosian. There being no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations for Nominating Committee.

The Auditing Committee nominees were as follows: Stella Chookhachian, Anita Essayan, Florence Omartian, Lucy Tepikian, and Edna Chookhachian. Only three were to be elected from these five candidates. As there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded that the nominations for Auditing Committee be closed. Ara Ishkhanian then presented the final slate to Judge Vincent Gurahian.

The new Parish Assembly Chairman and Secretary were then voted in. The Assembly was adjourned for a short recess, so that voting, lunch and review of last year's minutes could take place.

The Assembly was reconvened at 1:30 P.M. and the elections were declared closed. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of last year's minutes and to accept them as presented.

The Pastor then read his report. A motion was made and seconded to accept it as presented.

Martha Gurahian then read the Parish Council's report. She emphasized that the site plan had been finalized for the new Church complex. However, she noted, stewardship participation is not as high as desired, and revenues are even expected to be less in 1988; this will not be enough to maintain the new complex, and more resources are needed. She also reviewed all the church's activities throughout the year. The Assembly accepted the report as given.

A motion was then made and seconded to pass over the reading of the other reports, and go straight to the Building Committee Report. George Davidian, Chairman of the Building Committee, then read the report. He stated that because the layout of the community center was not progressing satisfactorily, we switched architects from Cain, Farrell and Bell to Thomas Ashbahian. He stated that the plans would be presented to the Harrison Town Planning Board on February 8. He was hopeful that grading and site preparation would take place during 1988, and that the facilities would be ready by Christmas 1989. He touched on the many problems that have laden us, such as the problems of neighbor resistance, water service, etc.

A question and answer period then ensued. George Guendjorian wanted to know how much money was salvaged from the previous architects. George Davidian answered that we were committed to pay \$25,000 and paid it; and that we were able to use very little of their plans.

A discussion then centered on the subjects of sewage and water pipes. As there is no water pipe available to us, we need to provide for water to be brought in. Lionel Galstaun pointed out that a recently built Islamic Center in the area had the same problem, and because they did not submit an environmental impact statement along with their plans, they ran into obstacles. He feels optimistic that all will be fine in our situation, as long as we abide and conform to all the regulations, which we intend to do.

Suren Fesjian, seeing that we are facing many difficulties, suggested that the parish council designate an emergency committee of four to five people to study these special problems. Dan Mushegian retorted that we have in the past, proposed a budget and a plan to follow, and that we have a built-in safeguard not to proceed beyond the limits of our past commitment. George Davidian added that no money is being spent unless they are authorized to do so.

Lionel Galstaun pointed out that we will get the scope of what is to be done soon, and he suggested that this discussion be put off until later. He then gave an anticipated schedule of progress to be made step by step in 1988, but stressed again that nothing can be done until the Town Board accepts our application/proposal of the site plan. After presentation, the estimated timetable is as follows: The Town Board has one month to decide if it is in order. Once the scope of the environmental impact statement is

defined, it will be prepared (3-4 months). The Planning Board has another month and a half to review the draft environmental impact statement, and report to the Town Board. Final approval is expected at the end of 1988.

Suren Fesjian saw the elaborate work and planning that was done, and withdrew his suggestion for an emergency committee. Al Darien then inquired the cost of the EIS, and Lionel Galstaun quoted a figure of \$30-40,000.

Ed Dorian, Sr., though optimistic about the success of the building of the complex, asked how much it will cost us minimum to find out whether or not we can build a church. Lionel Galstaun responded that we are committed to pay the architectural cap fee of \$160,000 and \$40,000 for the EIS, for a minimum cost of \$200,000. A motion was then made and seconded to accept the report of Building Committee reports as presented.

Avadis Sakalian then gave the Treasurer's Report. The 1988 budget was proposed at \$118,000. He mentioned that the rug sale and the picnic are the two big moneymakers, and that the rest of the revenue must come basically from the parish. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

The Chairman of the Parish Assembly then announced the winners of the election:

Auditing Committee: Anita Essayan, Florence Omartian, Lucy Tepikian,

Nominating Committee: Aida Pisani, Ann D. Boghosian, John Boyajian, Elise Bas.

Parish Council: Lionel Galstaun, Toros Mangassarian, Ed Essayan, Ohan Bas, Mark Derderian. The sixth place was tied between Zaven Adourian and Dan Mushegian, and after a runoff ballot with the members present, Dan Mushegian became the sixth new Parish Councilman.

The architects then spoke to the assembly. Tom Ashbahian presented a diagram of the final site plan. The church is a very traditional Armenian design of stone or brick material, seating 250. The community hall is similar to that of St. Leon's, with seating for 300. The assembly found this presentation informative.

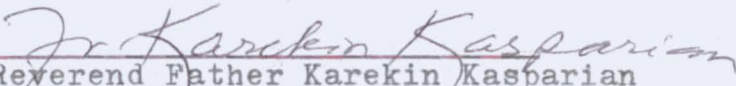
Lionel Galstaun then read the Fundraising Committee report. It was accepted as read.

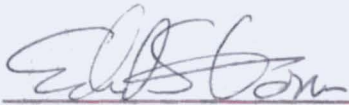
It was now time for New Business. The Parish Council made a resolution that St. James church dues be set at \$50 per person effective with 1989 dues. The resolution was passed by the Assembly.

Comments were then made by various members that the community itself must better support the activities of the church, so that we could better raise proceeds for the church. It was also suggested that new ideas are needed to raise money and keep the community together; affairs should not be repeated year after year.

Der hayr then made his closing remarks. He thanked the key people involved for running the meeting, thanked those leaving the Parish Council, and congratulated all the new members of the Parish Council.

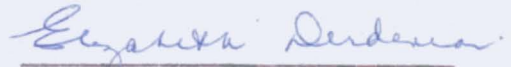
The Fifteenth Annual Parish Assembly adjourned with Der Hayr's closing prayer at 3:40 P.M.


Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian
Pastor and President



Edward Dorian, Jr.
Chairman

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Derderian
Assembly Secretary