

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH

The 83rd Annual Diocesan Assembly was held on May 2, 3 and 4, 1985 at the Armenian Church of The Holy Martyrs in Bayside, New York.

Among the more significant actions was the election of three clergy members to the Diocesan Council, namely, our own Pastor, Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian and Very Rev. Frs. Baret Yeretzian and Ghevont Samoorian.

In addition, five lay members were elected; Sarkis Bedevian, Dan Dorian, Arthur Mardigian, Edward Onanian and Zarvin Kasparian.

Two By-Laws Amendments were passed for the second time, and modified the By-Laws subject to approval by the Catholicos (which approval was subsequently received).

These amendments clarified discrepancies in the provisions for election of Diocesan Council members and in the provision for sale or encumbrances of real property in the Diocese.

In addition, a third proposed By-Laws Amendment was passed for the first time. This proposed amendment, approved by the 1986 Assembly, will legalize the authority of the Armenian Church Endowment Fund Trustees to sell or encumber real property donated to it for Fund purposes.

In addition, three proposals were approved. Since they are all relatively short, they are set out here in full:

1. "That the Primate appoint a representative to serve as a liaison between the Diocese and parishes without full-time clergy. This representative must meet with the respective parish councils at least twice a year and be present at the annual parish assembly."
2. "That every region in the Diocese be composed of at least one parish that has a minimum of two elected delegates."
3. "The parish of St. Gregory The Illuminator Church of Chicago, in conjunction with the Midwest Council of Armenian Churches, proposes that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America financially (\$1,000.00), educationally, and religiously support the Hye Camp Summer Project in Wisconsin."

The Assembly also directed the High Rise Committee continue its investigation of the feasibility of the project and report back, in 1986, to the Assembly.

The Unity Committee reported that since the 1984 Assemblies, no real progress has been made in this area primarily because of the Prelacy Assembly resolution passed in 1984.

Our Assembly authorized our Committee to continue discussions on the various issues, including the drafting of proposed Unity By-Laws as soon as the Prelacy Unity Committee is empowered to do so and to report back in 1986.

On Regionalization it was reported the New England Regionalization plan is in effect. Very Rev. Fr. Baret Yeretzian is the Regional Vicar and a regional council has been established.

Finally, the Assembly approved a letter to be sent to President Reagan urging his support of the Joint Resolution designating April 24 "...as a 'Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and particularly recalling the Armenian Genocide of 1915". The letter was sent on May 13, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,



Vincent Gurahian,
Delegate