

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH OF WESTCHESTER
PURCHASE, NEW YORK

M I N U T E S
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 8, 1987

The Fourteenth Annual Parish Assembly of St. James Armenian Church of Westchester commenced at 12:35 PM on Sunday, February 8, 1987. The meeting was called to order, and Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian opened with prayer. In the absence of last year's Assembly Chairman, Ara Ishkanian was elected to process the election of the new tiran. Anita Essayan, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, (other members Anahid Chookhachian, Aida Pisani and Ellen Ishkanian), took the floor, and proposed Judge Vincent Gurahian as Chairperson of the Parish Assembly, and Elizabeth Derderian as secretary. As there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made that the nominations be accepted by acclamation, with the Secretary, Grace Cassidy, casting a ballot. The motion was carried and passed.

The following ten Parish Council candidates were submitted by the Nominating Committee: Edward Paul Bashian, Gregory Chamourian, Albert T. Darien, Noyem Hoffmann, Mark M. Kapikian, Vahe Missirian, Avadis Sakalian, Alice Shimshidian and Richard Varadian. There were no further nominations from the floor, and the nominations for Parish Council were closed. Only five were to be elected.

The Auditing Committee nominees were as follows: Mary Aslanian, Annette Bashian, Rose Darien, Rose Derdiarian, Alice Kaladjian, and Lucy Tepikian. Only three were to be elected from these six candidates. As there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded that Auditing Committee nominations be closed.

The Nominating Committee candidates numbered eight; only four were to be elected. They were as follows: Ann D. Boghosian, Grace Bozian, Elma Davidian, Ara Ishkanian, Aida Pisani, Bernard Tepikian, Alyce Vakassian, and Linda Varadian. There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations for Nominating Committee were closed.

The nominees for Diocesan Delegate numbered four: Hon. Vincent Gurahian, Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun, Apkar Omartian, and John Vakassian. Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian explained that we are entitled to one Diocesan Delegate per 125 members, and because of our increasing membership, we are for the first time entitled to two delegates for the next four years.

The nominations were closed and all were accepted as per slate. Anita Essayan reminded the Assembly that only the blue ballots were valid for the election. The Auditing Committee was asked to assist the Nominating Committee in counting the ballots.

Judge Gurahian then took the floor and adjourned the Assembly for a recess. It was during this period that voting, lunch and review of last year's minutes took place.

The meeting reconvened at 1:05 PM. Judge Gurahian advised the Assembly that at least one-third of the membership, or 50 members, whichever greater, is necessary to constitute a quorum. Our parish has 150 paid members, and 53 ballots were distributed, so a quorum was indeed present.

The reading of the minutes of last year's Parish Assembly, as well as the minutes of the Special Parish Assembly of April 13, 1986, was dispensed with. The Chairman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes, and as there were none, the motion was made, seconded and carried that the minutes be approved as presented.

The Pastor then read his report, emphasizing his role as priest, preacher, pastoral counselor, administrator, and ecumenist. He paid particular attention to increasing membership and stewardship; our membership for 1986 was up by 22%. He also expressed his gratefulness to all the members and friends of the church who have continued to dedicate themselves to serving with devotion and dignity.

Judge Gurahian declared the election formally closed. As there were no questions with reference to the Pastor's report, Martha Gurahian read the Parish Council's report. She touched on such points as the neighboring community's feelings toward the building program; the decreasing revenue from our rug sales; our new cultural program, to name a few. She also reviewed all the church's activities throughout the year. The Assembly accepted the report as given.

The Chairperson of the Assembly then reopened the election enabling two late-comers to vote. The motion was made, carried, and seconded to do so. His report as Delegate to the 84th Annual Diocesan Assembly was accepted as presented.

Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun gave the Cultural Program report, and it was accepted as presented.

Edward Essayan gave the Building Committee report, advising us of the recent problem with the architect, Cain, Farrell and Bell, i.e., the illness of one of the architects, and the retirement of another. We are at present in the middle of a fee dispute, and are working to pull out of our relationship with this architectural firm. George Guendjoian asked what recommendations have come forth from our attorneys. Dr. Galstaun advised that this would be handled under new business, so the report was accepted as presented.

At this point the results of the election were given (53 ballots were cast). These officers were elected:

Parish Council: Gregory Chamourian, Albert T. Darien, Avadis Sakalian, Alice Shimshidian, and Richard Varadian

Auditing Committee: Annette Bashian, Alice Kaladjian, and Lucy Tepikian

Nominating Committee: Ann D. Boghosian, Elma Davidian, Ara Ishkanian, Aida Pisani and Linda Varadian. (Aida Pisani and Elma Davidian were tied for fourth place, and Aida Pisani wished to concede to Elma Davidian. There was no objection from the voting body, so Aida Pisani became the alternate.)

Diocesan Delegate: Judge Vincent Gurahian and Dr. Lionel S. Galstaun.

It was stated that the names of the alternates to all the committees would be given a little later in the Assembly.

Alice Shimshidian made the motion to dispense with all other organizational reports. The motion was seconded and carried, and they were all accepted as presented.

Dr. Lionel Galstaun then gave the Fundraising Committee report. He distributed corrected copies to everyone, and interjected that \$210,000 remains to be collected by November, 1987. The report was accepted as presented.

Avadis Sakalian then reviewed the financial report and the proposed budget. He pointed out that our proposed 1987 budget has been lowered due to lower rug sales revenue. Lower increases were given to various persons. The net surplus in 1986 was only \$5,557, as opposed to \$25-30,000 in previous years; this, again, was due to the decrease in income from rug sales. He was hopeful that our increase in membership would result in more donations, thus raising our net income for next year. Ann D. Boghosian requested that a copy of the budget be distributed to members before the Parish Assembly so that it could be reviewed. Avadis Sakalian said that next year a copy of the budget would be sent out along with the ballot.

Suren Fesjian suggested that the dues notices be sent out on a more timely basis and that more than one raffle book be sent out to people on the occasions when they are sent out. He stated that all in all, the budget is very reasonable.

Ellen Ishkanian noted that an amount of \$1,250 is allotted to a full-time organist, which we do not have at present. She suggested that maybe this amount be increased to attract someone. Avadis Sakalian reminded that the budget is not iron-clad and changes would be made if deemed necessary.

The budget was then accepted as presented.

The topic of new business was now addressed. The topic of the architect was brought up again and discussed. To review, \$165,000 cap is contracted for, and we've already paid \$15,000. Our possible exposure is \$33,000 per contract, and there is an unofficial oral request for another \$7,000 to be paid in addition to the \$15,000, in order to provide for mutual releases. Therefore, a total cost of \$22,000 is being requested to terminate with them. For the \$15,000 we've already paid, we've received a layout of a church structure on the property that seems satisfactory, and a small-scale design of the church hall complex that is not satisfactory. We are presently trying to retrieve part of the \$15,000 that has already been paid, and we are repudiating their additional request for \$7,000. We are looking to proceed with a new architect, providing everything is legally sound. In our new proceedings, whatever has already been accomplished will be utilized with the new architect.

Ara Shimshidian moved that the Parish Assembly authorize the Parish Council to enter into negotiation with a new architect. The resolution adopted was as follows:

"The Parish Assembly endorses the action of the Parish Council, terminating the contractual relationship with the present architect, Cain, Farrell and Bell, when advised by our attorney that it is appropriate to do so; and that the Parish Assembly authorizes the Parish Council to enter into contract negotiations with another architect for architectural services, and conclude such negotiations, provided the total cost of architectural fees will not exceed the previously accepted guideline of \$165,000."

The motion was carried unanimously.

Another topic of new business was discussed by Martha Gurahian, Chairperson of the Parish Council. She read a resolution that was submitted by the Parish Council, and passed by the Parish Assembly as follows, to be presented to the Diocesan Assembly in May:

"Resolved, that this Assembly reaffirm the guidelines for the unification of the Armenian Church in America adopted in 1982, and urge the Unity Committee to pursue every available avenue to bring a successful conclusion to the unity negotiations, consistent with the principles of the guidelines."

Anita Essayan then took the floor and gave the names of all the alternates for each committee:

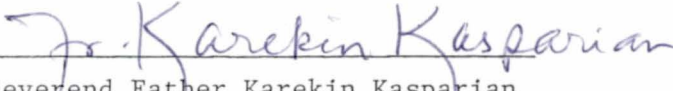
Parish Council: Edward Paul Bashian, first alternate
Mark M. Kapikian, second alternate

Nominating Committee: Aida Pisani

Auditing Committee: Rose Darien

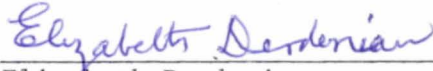
Diocesan Delegate: Apkhar Omartian

The Fourteenth Annual Parish Assembly adjourned with Der Hayr's closing prayer at 3:20 PM.


Reverend Father Karekin Kasparian
Pastor and President

Respectfully submitted,


Judge Vincent Gurahian
Chairperson


Elizabeth Derderian
Assembly Secretary