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St. James Armenian Church
 OF WESTCHESTER

55 LINCOLN AVENUE • TOWN OF HARRISON, PURCHASE, N.Y. 10577

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Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, *Pastor*
 (914) 633-8191, *Rectory*

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May 31, 1992

Rt. Rev. Bishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate,
 Diocese of the Armenian Church of America,
 630 Second Avenue,
 New York, N. Y. 10016.

Your Grace,

We enclose herewith, a much delayed response to your inquiry of January 14, 1992, relative to the formula for determining the assessments on the parishes.

We believe that it would be best to make a comparison of alternate methods of computing the assessment, including one based on number of voting members alone. It seems to us that that would be the only way of evaluating alternative approaches in terms of the fairness of the formulas. Since this subject is probably one that should be placed before the Diocesan Council for preview before presentation to the Diocesan Assembly, we recommend that the subject be treated as extensively as practical. We will be glad to assist in any useful way.

Respectfully,

Fr. Karekin Kasparian
 Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian
 Pastor

Lionel S. Galstaun
 Lionel S. Galstaun
 Member

PARISH ASSESSMENT FORMULA

Survey of Parishes

I. Article 7 of the Diocesan Bylaws provides in part that "Members in good standing of a Parish Church, who are 18 years of age or over, may participate in the assemblies of the same Parish and may vote, provided that at least six months have elapsed since the date of their registration as members of the Parish and their dues have been paid." (Emphasis supplied)

We are interested in learning how your parish administers the registration requirement. For example, do you use a registration form which is signed and dated, or do you simply request an individual's name and address? Please describe your approach below. Also, if you have a registration form, please supply a copy.

We maintain a complete list of all voting members and the currency of their dues payments. As members come to receive their ballots at the Annual Assembly, they are checked off on the list. If they are delinquent, they are asked to bring their dues payments up to date before handing them a ballot.

We wish to know also when dues are payable. Specifically, when would an individual have to pay his/her dues in order to vote at your 1992 Annual Parish Assembly? Please explain.

Dues are payable any time from January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991. However, if a member is delinquent for two years, they can be reinstated by paying back dues. If more than two years, they are treated as new members and subject to the normal restrictions in voting privileges and in holding office.

It would help us also to know how the dues requirement is met. That is, are parishioners expected to make a single payment, may they make earmarked payments throughout the year, or is there some other arrangement? Please explain.

We prefer a single payment but will accept partial payments if the payments are properly identified.

What are the annual dues in your parish? \$50.00

Are there reduced rates for sub-groups, for example, senior citizens, young adults, etc? Please identify sub-group(s), if any, and their rate(s). No

If we were to base the assessment exclusively on voting membership, would that affect the registration of new members? Yes/No Don't Know

If Yes, please explain how. As a relatively small parish, we find that our dues collections just cover our assessment. Probably minor effect.

II. Article 8 of the Diocesan Bylaws provides that "members who fail to pay their dues for one or more years" forfeit their voting and office-holding rights, but "may reinstate these rights by payment of their dues in arrears for at least the previous two years."

We would like to know whether the situation addressed by Article 8 occurs with any frequency among your members and, if so, the manner in which this article is enforced. Please explain.

This has not happened with any significant frequency.

III. The present formula seems to have been intended to assess parishes on the basis of membership and ability to pay. Sixty percent of the amount generated is allocated among the parishes on the basis of their membership, while another 25 percent is apportioned on the basis of plate collections, dues, pledges, and yughakin. The remaining 15 percent is determined on the basis of the number of sacraments, presence of clergy, and number of Diocesan delegates.

We are interested in your views on this approach. Do you find it satisfactory? Yes/No Yes*. If No, please identify on a separate sheet what you perceive as its shortcomings, and present the changes which you consider desirable.

Prepared by: Lionel S. Galstaun, former Parish Council Chairman
(Name and Position)

Parish: St. James, Westchester

Date: May 28, 1992

* We suggest that a study be made of the alternative method of basing assessment on membership (number of members). Comparison with present system will show the effects. It would be much simpler to base assessment on number of members alone.