

St. James Armenian Church Of Westchester

Minutes Of The Annual Parish Assembly\_\_ February 19,1995

The Twenty-Second Annual Parish Assembly of St. James Armenian Church of Westchester was held on February 19,1995 in the church building. A formal notice of the Assembly, the agenda and the Nominating Committee's list of candidates for office had been mailed to all members prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 12:47p.m. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, pastor, who presided. Judge Vincent Gurahian, 1994 Assembly Chairman, and Gale Perzigian, church secretary, verified that with 100 voters out of a total of 183 voting members, a quorum was present.

Judge Gurahian introduced the candidates for office and opened the floor for more nominations. None were put forth. Judge Gurahian explained the voting procedure after which he called a recess to allow the members to ballot and to have lunch.

The meeting resumed at 1:43p.m.

Judge Gurahian announced that Van Krikorian was elected Chairman of the Assembly and Sylvia Kruizenga was elected Recording Secretary. Mr. Krikorian called the meeting to order and instructed the membership that the meeting was to adhere to Robert's Rules Of Order.

The reading of last year's Annual Parish Assembly of February 6, 1994 minutes were waived; the minutes were approved; no discussion ensued.

Richard Papalian read the Building Committee Report. He then addressed himself to four areas of concern expressed by the parish membership: The total cost of the project; obtaining site plan approval from the City of White Plains; the status and delineation of contributions from the Ashbahian and the Aslanian/Tenguerian architectural groups; and lastly, the evolution of the present design of the church.

Mr. Papalian entertained a half hour discussion period. Under discussion was the following: A question put forth by Mrs. Grace Cassidy regarding the change in the name of the new church to Soorp Hagop was answered by Mr. Fesjian. He pointed out that St. James was a westernization of what originally was Srp. Hagop, and that we are correcting a past digression by reverting back to the original Armenian name of our church.

Mr. Papalian responded to questions, to the satisfaction of all present; Mr. Raffi Sevadjian's concerns over storage space and its location; Mrs. Lucy Tembeck's concerns over the accessibility of the new church and sufficiency of parking spaces (113 paved and 40 unpaved parking places are planned); Mr. John Boyajian's concern over the building materials used for the church (these are dependent on budgetary constraints); Mr. Michael Guroian's concern over the risks associated with the City's approval of the amended church plans (the City cannot deny any reasonable changes in the design especially since the square footage and its usage remain the same. The Building

Committee has also made it a point to communicate with the neighborhood, responding to questions and assuaging any concerns).

Mr. Papalian also assured Mr. John Vakassian and the assembly that there would be sufficient picnic area at the new site. In response to Mrs. Lillian Boyajian's query, he explained that the architect of record is Mr. Ashbahian, that the design architect is the Aslanian/Tenguerian group, and that the church is financially obligated to both. Lastly, in response to Mrs. Sarah Mushegian's query, it was surmised that ground breaking of the new church would be sometime this fall.

Mr. Fesjian gave the concluding statement and enjoined everyone to vote to accept the Building Committee's proposal. Mr. Krikorian entertained the motion for an oral vote on the proposal. The motion was unanimously carried.

Rev. Fr. Kasparian read the Pastor's Annual Report. Mr. Krikorian entertained the motion to accept the report with appreciation.

Mr. Lionel Galstaun read the Report of the Parish Council. He prefaced the reading by apprising the assembly of The Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act under consideration in the Senate Bill #S230 and in the House Bill #HR942. He entreated the assembly to get in touch with their Senators and Congressmen to ensure its passage. Mr. Krikorian who had penned the Act recited its salient points.

Mr. Galstaun updated the Parish Council Report regarding the transportation costs of Tufa stones that are under consideration for use in the new church. He announced that he had been in touch with a freight broker who had given him an estimate of \$42,000 for the transportation of the Tufa stones. This is less than half of the previously obtained estimate.

Mr. Galstaun corrected the increase in church membership which is in fact 21 and not 10, as mentioned in the report, bringing the number of current members to 183.

Mr. Harry Tavitian pointed out that the replacement of the office computer was at a total cost of \$2,721 and not the \$4,068 mentioned in the report.

The readings of the Diocesan Delegate Report and the Reports of the Church Organizations were waived.

Mr. Tavitian went through the Budgeted and Actual receipts and disbursements. He also pointed out an omission in Receipts under Endowments which should have read: Keleshian (Proceeds in Stewardship). The corrected sheet was distributed to the membership.

Chairman Krikorian proposed the motion to accept the Budget. The motion was seconded and carried.

Chairman Krikorian announced the results of the elections.

Elected as Diocesan Delegates were Lionel Galstaun and Vincent Gurahian, with Ara Ishkanian as alternate.

Elected to Parish Counsel were Lionel Galstaun, Paul Keyishian, Lisa Kouzoujian, Van Krikorian, Richard Papalian, with Shahen Guiragossian as alternate.

Elected to the Nominating Committee were Grace Cassidy, Stella Choukachian, Sally Guendjoian, Michael Guroian, with Alice Kaladjian as alternate.

Elected to the Auditing Committee were Dawn Papalian, Betty Salbashian, Russell Sirabian, with Margaret Brophy as alternate.

Mr. Ara Momjian read the Fundraising Committee's 1994 Annual Report. He explained that the losses shown in the Birnbaum Memorial Fund and in the Future Fund 2022 indicated the present value of the treasury bonds and zero coupon bonds, not at maturity, and hence only paper losses. Mr. Momjian assured the assembly that our capital is preserved. The Future Fund has \$60,000 invested in zero coupon bonds which will yield \$500,000 at maturation in year 2022. The balance of approximately \$18,000 remains in cash for opportunistic trading.

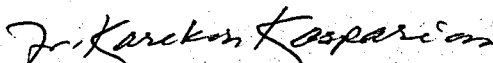
Prior to passing the motion to accept Mr. Momjian's Fundraising Report, Mr. Ed Gulbenkian corrected the Gulbenkian donation designating it as a matching fund. The motion to accept the Report was thereafter carried.

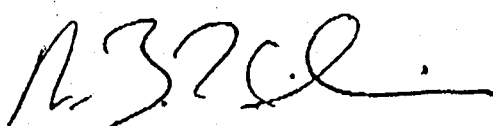
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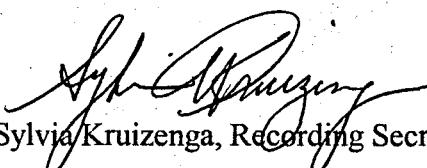
Under New Business, Chairman Krikorian turned the floor over to Mr. Galstaun who introduced a resolution regarding Ordination of Women To The Diaconate, which stated that the next Diocesan Assembly would be asked to request the Primate to use his hierarchical authority and ordain women to the diaconate. Motion to accept the resolution was unanimously carried.

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Following some discussion pertaining to hygienic considerations in the dispensation of the communion voiced by Mr. Essayan, Rev. Fr. Kasparian gave an explanation and the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30p.m.

  
Rev. Fr. Karekin Kasparian, President

  
Van Krikorian, Chairman

  
Sylvia Kruiuzenga, Recording Secretary