

HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH
1987 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 1988

The annual meeting of the Parish of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City was called to order following church services on Sunday, February 7, 1988. Motion was made and seconded for Mr. Harold Azmelian and Mrs. Claire Hovsepian to serve as Chairman and Recording Secretary, respectively, of the Parish Assembly. The meeting then was adjourned for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with a short prayer by Fr. Diran Papazian. A total of 54 parishioners were in attendance representing a quorum. Motion made and seconded to close the ballots at 1:30 p.m.

Harold Azmelian, Chairman, requested a moment of silence in memory of two recently departed extremely active members of our church, Mrs. Victoria Tukmanian and Mr. Deran Chopoorian. Also, Mrs. Arpena Sbarbaro read a short touching letter written by Mr. Levon Manougian to Mr. Chopoorian when he was hospitalized several years ago.

Fr. Diran Papazian read the Pastor's report for 1987, putting special emphasis on the fact that each year the number of funerals are at least double the amount of weddings and baptisms combined. This presents a challenge to the parishioners to think of ways of increasing our church membership.

Mr. Hagop Hovsepian requested that future reports (especially the Pastor's) be printed both in English and Armenian.

The Parish Council Chairman was asked to present the Parish Council report. The assembly was asked to raise only relevant questions at this time. Other points raised would be reviewed under the heading of "old business" and "new business" after the reports of the various organizations were read.

The reports of the various organizations were read and accepted as submitted. Mrs. Arpena Sbarbaro, Chairlady of the Women's Guild, presented the Chairman with a check in the amount of \$5,000.00 for which Harold Azmelian thanked her profusely.

Mrs. Alice Najarian, Chairlady of the Educational Society, asked that we insert in the record the fact that the Armenian School held a Cultural Day this past year which included a light luncheon and Yeretzkian Rosalie was

the principal speaker.

Mr. Armen Kalbian, Auditing Committee Chairman, reported that the Treasuere's reports for the various organizations were in good order. He had not audited the Senior Citizen organization nor the Choir, as they had limited financial activity.

Mr. Kalbian made a point of stating that the financial status of the Church is deteriorating and suggested that the first step should be to try to get an increase in pledges from the parishioners.

Mary Shalakian asked that in future financial reports of the Church, the heading of salaries show a breakdown as to amount and to whom paid. This was duly noted.

Motion as made and carried to accept the auditing committee report.

Mr. Philip Arpiarian, Chairman of the nominating commitee, announced the election results as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL: Philip Arpiarian Harold Azmelian
Nubar Dorian Hirant Gulian
Zaven Hovsepian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Robert Borgersen Ann Dadaian
Mary Shalakian

AUDITING COMMITTEE: Julliet Borgersen Dawn Foronjy
John Hovsepian

54 votes were cast - everyone unanimously elected.

Nubar Dorian asked for nominations from the floor for an alternate to be designated for the parish council. Motion was made and seconded to select Mr. Mardiros Barsamian as an alternate. Motion unanimously carried.

The proposed budget of the Parish Council was adopted as amended. The budget for 1988 is \$84,700.00.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. With regards to the 100 page history of Degranagerd by Bishhop Arsen Berberian from Sweden: Parish Council investigated and decided the project to be too costly and not very scholarly. Matter tabled.

B. With regards to Abp. Vatche Hovsepian's 35th Anniversary of ordination - congratulatory telegram was sent also a special endowment fund has been established in his name in the Western Diocese.

C. Rally day for the Armenian and Sunday School children - this event has not taken place - matter tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Commemorative Souvenir of Holy Cross Church: Parish Council had no thoughts on this proposal. Richard Kalbian suggested tabling at this time because of shortage of excess funds.

B. Nubar Dorian asked the assembly to consider transferring the funds of the Armenian School to the Parish Council and have the Parish Council be responsible for the financial needs of the school. After much heated discussion, this proposal was defeated.

C. Rental of Church Center: Suggested Parish Council study the feasibility of renting the center as a commercial enterprise - taking into consideration the possibility of losing our tax exempt status. Council will submit their findings.

D. Assembly approved the proposal of instituting a library in the Church Annex for the ACYOA Seniors to enable them to rent books on Armenian history and culture.

E. Regarding the proposal for an audio-visual history of Holy Cross Armenian Church - it was decided to table this matter at present in view of the fact that it appears to be a major project.

F. Endowment Fund: ~~The diocese has approached Holy Cross~~ with the proposal that we turn over our endowment fund to them so they may invest it for us. Parish Council asked the assembly for their comments. It was unanimously decided to maintain our present status of investing our own funds.

G. Mary Shalakian will form an independent committee to investigate ways of financing the purchase of a new church organ. Report will be made to Parish Council.

H. With regards to the Holy Cross proposed Annual Budget: Zaven Hovsepian made a motion to decrease the amount of the annual donation to St. Nersess Seminary from \$3,000.00 to \$1,500.00 per year. Motion carried.

I. Mardiros Barsamian asked the Parish Council to try to plan a celebration (possibly a dinner following church services) of Holy Cross day (Sept. Oct.) and to try to have Primate Manogian officiate.

J. The assembly was informed of the dinner-dance to be held on Feb. 13th at our Church Center for the purpose of introducing the Bolsahays to our parishioners. Every effort will be made to make them active in our church. Alice Yigitkurt has single-handedly orchestrated this entire

function.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The Chairman, on behalf of the Assembly, took strong exception to the "Epilogue" of the Pastor's report. He then read the two "Epilogues" Fr. Papazian had presented in previous reports and pointed out that we have gone in a period of two years "from marching to a drumbeat towards our centennial celebration, to a drumbeat leading Holy Cross to its grave."

The Chairman asked for comments from the Parish Council regarding their relationship with the Pastor. On behalf of the Parish Council, Mr. Nubar Dorian expressed the councils frustrations due to its inability to work with Pastor Papazian. Among other items he listed several requests of the Parish Council which Pastor did not follow in over 2 years.

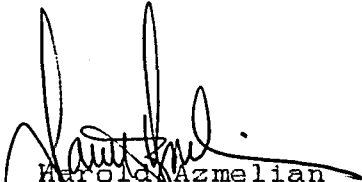
1. Adhere to regular office hours, 10 AM to 1PM.
2. Arrange the publication of our newspaper, the Vision, monthly and not once in three months.
3. His unwillingness to contact church members by regular visitations.
4. His indifference to the pleas of the council to attract the Bolsahays living in our area to our church.

A general discussion followed and issues such as parking, dwindling finances and membership were addressed after which the Chairman asked the Pastor to respond.


Father Papazian answer was that he would discuss all relevant matters with the Parish Council and make efforts to adopt a more amicable and cooperative attitude.

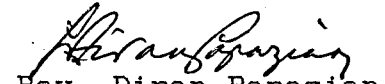
Mr. Nubar Dorian thanked Mr. Harold Azmelian and Mrs. Claire Hovsepian for their services and all members present for their continued interest and dedication to our church.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.


Harold Azmelian
Chairman

Respectfully submitted,


Claire Hovsepian
Recording Secretary


Rev. Diran Papazian
Pastor-President