

HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH  
1988 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING  
February 19, 1989

The annual meeting of the parish of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Union City was called to order on Sunday, February 19, 1989 at 12:30 p.m. Mr. Armen Kalbian was nominated to serve as Chairman, and Mrs. Claire Hovsepian as Recording Secretary. The meeting was then adjourned for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with a total of 51 parishioners in attendance, representing a quorum. Motion was made and seconded to close the ballots at 2:00 p.m.

Prior to the reading of the various organizations' annual reports, Mr. Nubar Dorian gave a verbal report regarding Vehapar's visit to America. Mr. Dorian told us of a meeting with a select group who had met with the Vehapar with the specific purpose of discussing various methods of dealing with the task of aiding and rebuilding after the earthquake in Armenia. The Vehapar mentioned a list of buildings needed for this restoration - i.e., hospitals; schools; orphanages, etc., and suggested that various organizations should choose one project and undertake the raising of funds to its completion.

There will be no coalition in America. The Central Committee will be in Yerevan. Also, the Soviet Union has agreed to handle the donated monies through Etchmiadzin with a rate of exchange at 4 rubles to \$1.00 (at present, the rate of exchange through a bank is 1.65 rubles to a \$1.00 and the black market rate is 7 rubles to a \$1.00)

To date, there has been collected \$39 million dollars in the United States - and overall total of \$110 million dollars with Checkslovakia the country with the most monies collected.

It was also pointed out that we do not have a Pastor's report this year and Mr. Dorian stated that hopefully within one months time this matter will be resolved and Holy Cross will have a new spiritual leader.

Philip Arpiarian, Secretary of the Parish Council, asked that the members present read the Parish Council report as submitted and he would be glad to answer any questions. Andy Avedesian made a motion for the report to be accepted as submitted.

Mrs. Julie Borgersen, as a member of the auditing committee, made a brief statement regarding their findings. The committee had reviewed the financial statements of the various organizations and found them to be correct as submitted.

Armen Kalbian then asked Arpena Sbarbaro to say a few words on behalf of the Women's Guild. She thanked all the members for faithfully attending the meetings and for accepting any and all projects that they were assigned. The organization is as strong as ever. At this time, Mrs. Ardemis Koundakjian presented a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 to Harold Azmelian, Treasurer of the Parish Council.

The remainder of the reports as submitted were accepted by those in attendance.

Miss Alice Bozoyan, head of the Sunday School, spoke briefly about the problems regarding the weekly attendance. We only have a total of 10 students, with irregular attendance, and she is faced with a seemingly hopeless situation. Miss Bozoyan asked for guidance from the Parish Council.

After much discussion, Mr. Dorian stated that one of the primary tasks of our new spiritual leader will be to concentrate on resolving these problems (i.e. contacting parents in an effort to increase enrollment; possibly providing some sort of transportation, etc.)

Philip Arpiarian, Secretary of the Parish Council, went over some of the items listed as "new business" in last year's minutes of the Parish meeting. The dinner/dance which was to be held in February was cancelled as a result of the earthquake in Armenia.

Regarding the purchase of a new organ for Holy Cross Church, Ms. Mary Shalakian reported that she had contacted the people at Rogers and went over the type that would suit our church and the cost would be between \$10 and \$15, thousand dollars. It was suggested that Ms. Shalakian form a committee and present a plan of action for raising this money to the Parish Council for them to put into motion.

#### New Business

##### 1. Donation to St. Nerses Seminary

Philip Arpiarian made a motion to appropriate an additional \$1500.00 donation to the St. Nerses Seminary. It was pointed out that Fr. Carnig Hallajian has never accepted any compensation for his services to our Church and this additional \$1500. be made to St. Nerses in his name accompanied by a letter formally thanking Fr. Hallajian.

Vote was called and passed 21-10 in favor.

2. A recommendation was made Parish Council reports and the Vision be printed both in English and Armenian. Ms. Yigitkurt will contact someone who has a knowledge of the use of our Armenian typewriter and Mr. Dorian volunteered to submit articles in Armenian to be printed in the Vision.

3. Apo Boghosian made a motion that a theater group be formed as another form of fund raising. Parish Council will work on organizing a group and selecting a director. Passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of 1989 proposed annual budget was reviewed by Harold Azmelian. Approval needed for:

- (a) Building maintenance and improvements
- (b) Renovation of entrance to Parish house.
- (c) Office machinery - it was proposed that we purchase a new copy machine which could be used for printing the Vision, the Sunday bulletin, etc.
- (d) Maintain Holy Cross yearly contribution to St. Nerses Seminary at the \$3,000.00 figure.

5. A vote of acceptance by those in attendance was requested for the painting and cleaning of the interior of the Church, also installing a new awning for the entrance to the Parish House, since the cost will exceed \$500.00.

Motion was made and seconded to approve this renovation work and passed unanimously.

Zaven Hovsepian proposed returning the sum of \$10,261.35 to the Trust Fund which was originally borrowed from the interest earned on this fund. Seconded by R.Borgersen and unanimously passed.

Mr. Philip Arpiarian, announced the results of the elections as follows:

PARISH COUNCIL:      Apo Boghossian              Arpena Sbarbaro  
                         Robert Borgersen          Charles Shenloogian  
                         Edward Sahagian          Alice Yigitkurt

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE:          Aram Aramian  
                         Robert Borgersen  
                         Mary Shalakian

AUDITING  
COMMITTEE:          Julliet Borgersen  
                         Armen Kalbian  
                         Arax Karagosian

A total of 51 votes were cast.

#### General Discussion

Mary Shalakian asked the Parish Council to look into the sale of the building on 27th Street and New York Avenue for possible use as a parking garage for the Parishioners. They agreed to investigate and advise us.

Mr. Hagop Hovsepian also expressed his appreciation of the fact that we have always had a visiting Clergy on Sunday and everything has been running smoothly and our parish remains as strong as ever, thanks to our faithful parishioners.. Also, Mr. Arpiarian commended Mrs.Sbarbaro for her efforts towards this end.

The matter of acquiring a new staff (kafazan) for our church was proposed and Mr. Hrant Gulian kindly advised that he would take care of getting Holy Cross a new staff for use by visiting high ranking clergy.

At this point, Mr. Nubar Dorian congratulated the new council members and thanked Armen Kalbian for chairing the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Claire Hovsepian*

Claire Hovsepian  
Secretary

*Armen Kalbian*

Armen Kalbian  
Chairman