

**HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH  
UNION CITY, N.J.**

**1998 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 31, 1999**

The Annual Parish Assembly Meeting was convened by the Very Rev. Vazken Karayan, President, immediately following Church Services. Fr. Vazken invited Mr. Nubar Dorian to make some comments regarding the conduct of the meeting. Mr. Dorian then introduced Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Abraham Boghossian, who proceeded with the election of a Chairman and Secretary for the Parish Assembly. Messrs. Nubar Dorian and Philip Arpiarian were unanimously elected to the positions of Chairman and Secretary, respectively.

The meeting was adjourned to the Church Center and reconvened at 12:30PM at which time balloting commenced.

Following a prayer by Fr. Karayan, a motion was made and passed to close the balloting at 1:30PM.

The current voting members of record is 58. A total of 42 members voted and were present. In addition to the voting members, there were 10 members in good standing in attendance, making a total of 52 members which constituted a quorum.

The Chairman of the Assembly referred to the Minutes of the 1997 Annual Meeting and asked if there were any questions. There being none, the Chairman dispensed with the reading of the minutes.

The Chairman invited Fr. Karayan to present the Pastor's Report.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** (refer to the 1998 Annual Report, attached)

Fr. Karayan commented on several significant issues --

- **Armenian School:** Hayr Soorp pointed out there was a decline in enrollment from 23 to 8 students. He pointed out that it was the parent's responsibility to encourage their children's participation. Last year's Superintendent, Mrs. Alice Yigitkurt has resigned. Hayr Soorp had not as yet found a replacement.

- **Sunday School:** There are only 5 students and attendance is sporadic. Parental apathy appears to be the problem. Fr. Karayan praised the Sunday School Superintendent, Ms. Sylvia Bozoyan, for her efforts and perseverance under these difficult circumstances.
- **Choir:** Membership increased by the addition of several new people. Hayr Soorp praised the choir and pointed out that it was one of the best in the metropolitan area.

The Assembly gratefully accepted the Pastor's Report and applauded Hayr Soorp's efforts of the past year.

The Chairman of the Assembly then invited the Chairmen of the Church organizations to present their reports.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT** (refer to the 1998 Annual Report, attached)

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Apo Boghossian, invited questions regarding the report. There being none, he proceeded to review some of the highlights:

- **Renovation of the Church Center** - installation of new dishwasher, hot water heater and freezer.
- **Activities of the Aghtamar Dance Group and the AYO (Armenian Youth Group).**

He acknowledged and praised the efforts of the Deacons, Choir Members, Chairpersons of the Church Organizations and the Treasurer.

**AUDITING REPORT**

Mr. Armen Kalbian reported that the accounts of the Parish Council, Women's Guild, Choir, Sunday School, Armenian School and Senior Citizens were in order. He thanked the other members of the Auditing Committee for the assistance - Mrs. Gladys Abahoonie and Ms. Satenig Karagosian.

Mr. Kalbian also complimented all the Treasurers for their excellent work, especially Ms. Mary Shalakian, Parish Council Treasurer and Ms. Arax Karagosian, Women's Guild Treasurer.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** (refer to 1998 Annual Report, attached)

Mr. Kalbian presented the Treasurer's Report.

**WOMEN'S GUILD REPORT** (refer to 1998 Annual Report, attached)

Ms. Diana Burggraf, Chairlady, congratulated her membership for their superb effort during the year which resulted in a \$20,000 transfer to the Parish Council Treasury. She commented that more funds could be raised give more access to the Church Center.

The emphasis of the Guild for the next year is geared toward the renovations to the kitchen and the replacement of cooking equipment.

**ARMENIAN SCHOOL** (included in Pastor's Report)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (refer to the 1998 Annual Report, attached)

**ENDOWMENT FUND** (separate report attached)

Mr. Kalbian presented the report and highlighted some important points:

- \$20,000 interest from the Fund was transferred to the Church Treasury
- \$6,100 was donated to the Endowment Fund principle in 1998
- Fund return in 1998 was 7.83%
- Fund balance December 1998 - \$1,667,034.46

The Chairman of the Assembly invited a motion to accept all the Reports as presented. Motion made, seconded and passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Chairman of the Assembly, Mr. Dorian, opened with a discussion regarding the decline in membership from 95 in 1997 to 58 in 1998.

He suggested that dues, \$100. per year (\$50. for Seniors) was too high. He felt that this discouraged members in good standing from joining as voting members and therefore should be reduced.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to leave the dues as they are and to direct the Parish Council to conduct an intensive membership drive.

**1999 BUDGET** (refer to the 1998 Annual Report, attached)

The budget was presented by Mr. Philip Arpiarian. The individual items were discussed. Included in the budget is \$50,000 for enhancement and renovations in the Church and Church Center.

- Church: new altar curtains
- Church Center - new stoves, fire protection equipment, new windows, new stage curtain and updating electrical circuits.
- Also update in office equipment account include:
  - Tying into the NET
  - New program "SNAPPY" to enhance the quality of photographs used in the Church Publications.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Budget as presented.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

The Nominating Committee submitted the election results:

**PARISH COUNCIL** (6)

Philip Arpiarian	Alice Yigitkurt	Andrew Avedesian
Ann Dadaian	Harold Azmelian	Mary Shalakian

Alternates: Julyet Kirsik, Hacik Sariminasyan

**DELEGATE** (1)

Nubar Dorian

Alternate: Zaven Hovsepian (voice vote)

**AUDITING COMMITTEE** (3)

Gladys Abahoonie	Sylvia Bozoyan	Armen Kalbian
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Alternates: Satenig Karagosian, Mary Shalakian

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (3)

Diana Burggraf	Ann Dadaian	Zaven Hovsepian
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Alternates: Sylvia Bozoyan, Arax Karagosian

There being no other business to discuss, motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at 3:00PM.

Hayr Soorp thanked the outgoing members of the Parish Council and congratulated the newly elected members.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Hayr Soorp.

Respectfully submitted,



**Philip Arpiarian**

**Secretary**



**Nubar Dorian**

**Chairman**



**Very Rev. Vazken Karayan**

**Pastor and President**