

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH

PART II

Sunday, February 7, 1982

The meeting was called to order by Assembly Chairman Antranig Ouzoonian at 1:30 P.M.

Father Arnak opened the meeting with a prayer.

Albert Papazian verified the eligibility of all the voters.

Arthur Azarik made a motion to close the elections at 1:45 P.M. Zaven Poosikian seconded. The motion was carried.

Chairman Ouzoonian thanked the Women's Guild for preparing and serving lunch. He also thanked everyone for attending the Annual Assembly and stressed the importance of members to speak out and air their feelings concerning important issues that effect St. Thomas.

At this time Chairman Ouzoonian stated that as everyone had a copy of the Assembly Report it would not be read in its entirety. He called upon Father Arnak for highlights of the Pastor's Report.

Der Arnak spoke of controversy concerning the use of English during church services. He feels that some portions of the service should be in English as long as the Badarak itself is in Armenian so that more members of the congregation, especially our young peopel, will understand the meaning of these special portions of the service.

Father Arnak said a prayer for the souls of our departed members. He proceeded to thank Bazaar Co-Chairpersons Michel Izmirly and Amy Jamgochian for a job well done and especially thanked Mr. Edward Bashian and his family for their assistance with the rug sale.

At this time, Chairman Ouzoonian asked if there were any eligible voters who had not cast their ballots. There were none. Co-chairman, Ronald Kenderian informed the Nominating Committee that the ballots were closed.

Chairman Ouzoonian called upon Parish Council Chairman Peter Jamgochian for highlights of the Parish Council Report. Mr. Jamgochian thanked the Parish Council members for their cooperation and efforts toward the continuation and growth of St. Thomas Church.

The highlights of his report were:

1. Membership - No membership campaign had been undertaken in 1981. He recommended that a committee be formed and goals be established to increase our membership.
2. Building and Grounds - Peter thanked Moses Kazanjian for taking over this task in mid year. Improvements and repairs made during 1981 were: grading and leveling of the picnic area, installation of a fire alarm system, repair of the front door bell, new lighting in the parking lot, replacement of kitchen and corridor doors, extension of the main parking lot, new water heater, repair of the heating system, new lighting on the 9W side of the church complex, replacement of a collapsed drain pipe at the rear of the kitchen.
3. Recommendations For the Coming Year - a. The services of Mr. Armand Avakian, an architect, have been engaged to prepare conceptual plans for possible expansion of existing buildings and/or new buildings. These plans should be ready in 4-6 weeks and are to be presented at a future Special Parish Assembly.  
b. Plans have been drawn up and three bids have been received to enclose the vestibule area at the entrance to the church annex. The bids are in the \$16,000 range. c. Plans to convert the heating system of the church annex to a hot water system with the addition of air conditioning capability have been received. The preliminary estimate cost will be about \$16,000. Action on plans b and c are pending depending on the outcome of the con-

ceptual plans. d. Reorganization of the A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors. Concerning this recommendation, Mr. Frank Avakian Stoneson, Executive Director of the Diocese, informed the Assembly that he had attended a Youth Conference at St. Leons Church together with members of the A.C.Y.O.A. Central Council, area church pastors, and New York/New Jersey youth. He stated that there was a positive response by those who attended this meeting and that a second meeting was scheduled for February 26, 1982, to establish objectives and goals.

Mr. Jamgochian concluded his report by giving special thanks to: Paul Pinajian and Moses Kazanjian for filling in positions on the Council made vacant by Haig Varjian and Leon Nigohosian, to Vahan Barsamian and Jack Hajinlian who were finishing their terms on the Council, to Arthur Azarik and George Mekenian who were completing their terms as Diocesan Delegates, to Der Arnak who served as a source of inspiration to the Council.

Council Chairman Jamgochian ended his report by thanking everyone for their help, advice and time for the past two years.

Chairman Ouzoonian thanked Mr. Jamgochian for a job well done and asked Vahan Barsamian for a Financial Report.

BANK BALANCES BEGINNING 1981:

Checking Account.....	\$11,451.85
Savings Account. ....	<u>69,865.91</u>
	\$81,317.76
Income.....	\$183,460.71
Disbursements.....	<u>158,240.83</u>
	<u>25,219.88</u>
Total Cash - December 31, 1981.....	\$106,537.64

Car Raffle net profit of \$10,700 as well as \$16,000 receivable from the 1981 Bazaar were not included in the above balance. Mr. Bashian asked for clarification of these items and expressed a desire that in the future the Financial Report be more concise.

The Chair asked Joseph Kalemkerian to present highlights of the Diocesan Assembly Report. Concerning the Diocesan Church Endowment Fund, Albert Victoria asked why with \$1,800,000 in assets, the fund only earned \$77,000 for the Diocese. Victor Arzoomanian, Director of the Fund, responded that monies were given to Jerusalem, St. Nerses Seminary, etc., and that some assets are not liquid (i.e., buildings, property) and cannot be invested.

Concerning the Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund, Mr. Kalemkerian reported that a \$10,000 C.D. had been purchased.

No representative from the George Shahinian Memorial Fund was present to answer questions which arose concerning where monies were invested.

Arthur Azarik asked why the church is involved in these private funds. Michel Izmirly responded that without the church's name, these funds could not exist because of government red-tape.

Nazar Nazarian stated he doesn't feel that the administration of these funds is a function of the church and that it may be illegal for the church to do so.

Mr. Peter Ajemian suggested that the Board of Trustees set guidelines for the investment of these funds. It was disclosed that the by-laws of the Board of Trustees states: "...to act as Trustee and Manager of special funds." Mr. Vay Najarian suggested this issue to be tabled and to have the Parish Council and the Board of Trustees meet on it.

Victor Arzoomanian made a motion that the Board of Trustees review Memorial Funds for the year 1981 and present a report at the Special Parish Assembly or between 60 and 90 days whichever comes first. Tish Basmajian seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. John Zakar reposted that the books and records of the church and its organizations had been audited and found correct. Der Arnak suggested that in the future the Auditing Committee be more assertive in scheduling the accounts of the various organizations. Alin Papazian suggested that the term of office for the Auditing Committee be increased to two or three years to enable them to do their job more efficiently and with more expertise.

The report for the Proposed Budget for 1982 was given by Parish Council Chairman, Peter Jamgochian.

CORRECTION: A.C.Y.O.A. Actual 1981 was \$1,039 not \$39.

Not included in the 1982 Budget is money for the heating system, vestibule enclosure and expansion. Those monies are to be decided upon at the Special Parish Assembly.

Mr. Bashian suggested two changes. Under Other Income, item #3, Income from Interest, from \$7,000 to \$12,000. Under Donations, item #1, In-Lieu-of-Flowers, from \$9,000 to \$4,000. He also proposed that in the future the Board of Trustees be a part of the Budget Committee.

At this time, Mr. Bashian proposed that St. Thomas Church make an annual donation of \$1,000 to St. Nerses Seminary. Mr. Stoneson suggested not mentioning St. Nerses per se as the Diocese might not approve our budget with this item in it.

Arthur Azarik made a motion that we increase the 1982 Budget by 1% in order to make a donation to St. Nerses Armenian Seminary for the purpose of theological education. Hagop Jebejian seconded. Mr. Bashian proposed an ammendment to Arthur's motion to make the donation an even \$1,500. Mr. Azarik accepted the revision and the motion was carried.

Mr. Jamgochian suggested ammending other items in the budget

in order to balance it.

1982 Budget Changes

Page 10, Donations, Item #1 to \$5,000

Other Income, Item #3 to \$12,000

Page 11, Educational, Item #3 Add \$1,500 for St. Nerses Seminary Theological Education

Mr. Bashian made a motion to accept the Proposed 1982 Budget as corrected. Virginia Victoria seconded. The budget was approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Yeretzkin Violet stated that the Women's Guild Executive Board feels that St. Thomas should have a fixed charge for weddings and baptisms for non-St. Thomas members. Both Frank Stoneson and Peter Jamgochian responded that all Armenians are entitled to the Sacraments without being charged a specific fee and that the use of the church for sacramental purposes should remain on a donation basis.

At this time, Mr. Jamgochian made a motion on behalf of the Parish Council that the Assembly direct the Parish Council to seek a qualified, salaried Youth Director as overseer of all Youth Programs within our church. Mr. Jack Hajinlian seconded. Edward Bashian made an ammendment to that motion that the Parish Council look into the feasibility of such a proposal and present a report to the Special Parish Assembly. There was no second for this ammendment. Mr. Jamgochian's motion was carried as such.

Mr. Andy Ouzoonian made a motion that we formulate a Fact Finding Committee for the expansion needs of our church for the next five years. Members of the Committee are to be comprised of members of the various church organizations including the Board of Trustees and elders who will be appointed by the Parish Council

The Committee's findings will be reported to the Parish Council who will present it to an architect for deliberation. Mr. Peter Ajemian seconded.

Ara Babigian asked Andy to withdraw his motion as an architect has already been retained. Mr. Ouzoonian refused to withdraw his motion. The motion was not carried.

Mr. John Saxenian suggested that the Parish Council sponsor a Collegiate Dance each year.

At this time, Mr. Stonesone commented that he felt St. Thomas needs a full or part time, salaried secretary in order for the church to operate more efficiently. Mr. Izmirly made a motion that we hire a full time secretary. Mr. Stoneson seconded.

Louise Kalemkerian ammended the motion that a part time person be hired. Yeretzkin Violet seconded Louise's ammendment. The motion was carried to hire a part time secretary. Peter Jamgochian thanked Dikri's Malool for her many years of voluntary secretarial service.

#### RESULTS OF THE BALLOTING

Susan Shamamian verified the eligibility of all the voters. She reported that a record 150 ballots had been cast.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Peter Ajemian

Paul Pinajian

Samuel Demirjian

Virginia Victoria

Grace Hagopian

#### 8 Alternate

Charles Doudoukjian

#### ST. THOMAS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward Bashian

#### DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Victor Arzoomanian

Joseph Kalemkerian

Michel Izmirly

Lillian Kasparian

#### Alternate

Peter Jamgochian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Antranig Ouzoonian  
Zaven Poosikian  
Martha Saraydarian

Shakae Shahinian  
Susan Shamamian

Alternate

Paul Kahaumjian

AUDITORS

Vahan Barsamian  
Ardis Kasparian

John Zakar

Alternate

Lucy Nakashian

OFFICERS for 1983 ASSEMBLY

Chairman

Ronald Kenderian

Co-Chairman

Arthur Otchy

Secretary

Eileen Barsamian

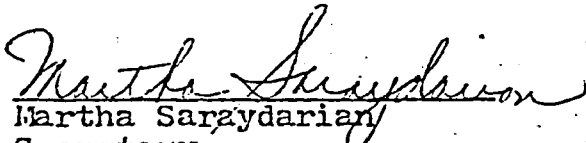
Alternate Secretary

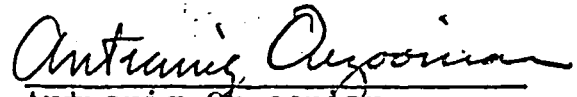
Rosanne Saxenian

Mr. Puzant Torigian made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

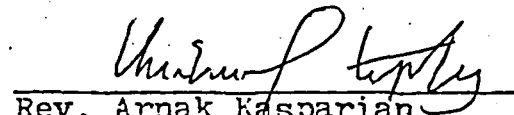
The motion was seconded by Mr. Tish Basmajian.

The assembly was adjourned at 5:45 P.M. with a closing prayer by Der Arnak.

  
Martha Saraydarian  
Secretary

  
Antranig Ouzoonian  
Chairman

Approved and Ratified

  
Rev. Arnak Kasparian  
President