

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
SECOND SESSION - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1985

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mekenian at 1:27 p.m. It was established that there was a quorum present - 67 members. Edward Bashian moved to close balloting at 1:45 p.m. Michel Izmirly seconded and the motion was carried.

Der Hayr was called on to give his Annual Report. He asked for prayers for our departed members. The Chair proposed that we not read the annual reports for each organization since written reports had been available for one week. Questions could be asked as we proceeded through the agenda. There were no objections. Joseph Kalemkerian requested a correction of Der Hayr's report to read : that Louise Kalemkerian prepared the acolytes while he worked with the altar servers. Ron Kenderian was designated as parliamentarian.

Chairman Mekenian thanked all the ladies who helped prepare lunch prior to the meeting, and extended appreciation to the Kasparian family for all the services they've rendered St. Thomas.

The Chair then called Peter Ajemian, Parish Council Chairman, for his report. Mr. Ajemian thanked the Council and announced future activities for the Parish:- March 31, Albert Victoria will chair the Palm Sunday dinner; April 13, Adrienne Tenbekjian and Ellen Kenderian will chair the Cotillion; May 27, the Men's Club will chair the Memorial Day Picnic with the Car Raffle headed by Zaven Poosikian; our annual rug sale will be in late September or early October under the direction of Edward Bashian, Michel Izmirly and Mary Ann Saraydarian; the Bazaar will be on November 16/17 chaired by Victor Arzoomanian and his three co-chairwomen; The Sr. ACYOA will host New Year's Eve under the advisorship of Charles Amerkanian; and there will again be the New Year's Eve celebration to benefit St. Nersess. Joseph Kalemkerian added that a retreat sponsored by the Kasparian fund took place on October 13/14 for our children. The Chair, on behalf of the Parish, thanked Peter and his Parish Council and their families for their responsible management of St. Thomas business. He then thanked all those who make our organizations function. A letter received from the Auditing Committee was read stating that the auditing of all account books would be completed within the next two weeks.

Grace Hagopian gave the financial report for 1984. Joseph Kalemkerian expressed his feeling the the Tashjian and Shahinian Memorial Funds should present an annual report to the parishioners. Paul Kahaumjian asked if

the Women's Guild had Parish Council approval for their sponsorship of a student in Jerusalem. Yeretzgin replied that they did. Chairman Mekenian asked for acceptance of the annual report, as corrected, with a show of hands. Carried.

New Business - Andy Ouzoonian asked on behalf of Sam Demirjian if absentee ballots were allowed by the Diocesan by-laws? And, if not, why? Der Hayr replied that the recommendation was repeatedly turned down at the Diocesan Assembly. Virginia Victoria felt the question should be reconsidered with qualifications and brought up again by the Diocesan Delegates. Her motion was seconded by Ely Karalian. Yeretzgin cautioned that there may be good reasons why this measure was unacceptable in the past and careful consideration should be given to it. The Chair called the question. It was not carried.

Yeretzgin recommended that our delegates ask for funding to support the new Church School curriculum. She explained that this work has been in preparation for 10 years and now that the authors and artists have completed the project, Diocesan funding is not available. She would like to see the item as part of the budget. Louise Kalemkerian recommended a budget item of \$250,000. Rose Mekenian felt that putting a dollar value on it could cause it to be defeated. The Chair recommended that the Parish Council and the Delegates express the wish of the St. Thomas Parish Annual Assembly that the Diocesan Budget include a budget line implementing publishing of the curriculum. Seconded by Yeretzgin and carried. Der Hayr added that when the Regional Conference was held at St. Thomas on March 7, that topic would be discussed. Yeretzgin also moved that meetings of organizations not be held concurrently with the Diocesan Assembly. Seconded by Richard Papazian and passed.

Nish Ohanessian's request that the assembly reconsider criteria for membership in St. Thomas - namely the \$100 membership fee - was then discussed. Gary Arkel felt the rule should be changed, with youth and elderly most touched by this action. Dick Turnamian explained that baptism makes a person a member of the Church, but the \$100 charge would make a person a voting member. Arthur Azarik noted that the Diocese received \$56. per member in dues. Edward Bashian felt the \$100 was unnecessary as the income from this only added \$3000 to the budget. Sona Doudoukjian was totally against

taxing students. Ara Pekmezian asked what other churches charged. Peter Ajemian answered, \$25 Union City and \$75 Holy Martyrs. Virginia Victoria felt \$2 a week was not too much. Rose Mekenian commented that the \$100 pledge was supposed to alleviate some fundraising, but that she saw no decrease in requests for funds. She felt we should reconsider this matter. Yeretzgin called for a committee to gather facts, see what area churches charge, and that students receive special consideration. Not carried. Peter Ajemian stressed that the \$100 only leaves \$44 for St. Thomas and that doesn't come near to covering the cost of services. He moved that the Parish Council study the student situation for next year's Parish Assembly. Ely Karalian seconded. Alyce Parseghian felt that if we reduce student rates that the Diocese should reduce their dues also. Peter Kalemkerian wished to amend the motion to include a total re-evaluation and complete overhaul of membership dues, not just students. The amendment was not accepted. The motion to evaluate student memberships was carried. Edward Bashian recommended that the entire question be considered by the Parish Council. Peter Kalemkerian so moved and Gary Arkell seconded. The Parish Council is to re-evaluate the entire issue of membership dues and come back with recommendations to next year's Assembly. Report and Recommendations from Building Committee - Michel Izmirly reported that the picture has changed dramatically since Dec. 31, 1984. Pledges now total \$687,000 plus \$100,000 from the Board of Trustees. However, building cost estimates have risen from \$600,000 to \$900,000. He asked that supporters double pledges and pledge anew. In any case, we will need a \$3-400,000 short term construction mortgage. Michel thanked the Saddler, Mekhjian and Nazarian families for their increased donations. Albert Victoria explained that increased costs were due to long term energy enhancements (Insulation, heating, air conditioning, thermopane windows) in new building, and that new engineering and building designs were needed to satisfy environmental government bodies.

Edward Bashian moved that, the Building Committee be authorized to enter into agreements with various contractors to upgrade and construct the building complex in accordance with plans dated 9/30/84 for a total cost not to exceed \$900,000. In addition, the Parish Council will be authorized to execute the note, mortgage and other documents to obtain financing not to exceed \$400,000 for a

maximum period of 5 years which will cover the difference between cash flow, the amount of the pledges received, and the final construction costs.

Alyce Parseghian asked if all those who have not yet pledged were going to be personally approached. Peter Ajemian replied that he and Der Hayr would do that. Henry Hagopian felt this was too serious an issue to be decided by this forum and that a special assembly should be called. George Mekenian reported that we are on the threshold of getting final approvals required. He stated the hurdles confronted were unbelievable, and that the Committee was presently in active negotiations with two contractors in the \$850-900,000 range. Our desires to go ahead will make these negotiations more fruitful. The motion was carried one vote short of unanimous; sixty one to one.

Joseph Kalemkerian presented a motion that, in honor of the 25th anniversary of our consecration, St. Thomas host the 1990 Diocesan Assembly. Michel Izmirly seconded, and the motion was passed.

Regarding the proposed 1985 budget, Edward Bashian asked why the disbursements of \$157,500 don't match the income of \$185,200? Michel Izmirly explained that our last mortgage payment was in January and he moved to increase the disbursements portion of the 1985 budget by \$27,700 to balance the budget; thereby providing to some degree for the bridge loan/mortgage necessary to cover cash flow. Seconded by Mr. Bashian and carried. Ronald Kenderian moved that we accept this budget as amended. Second by Ara Babigian, passed. passed.

Joseph Kalemkerian felt we should have a Mortgage Burning Dinner, but the Parish Council Chairman reported that this would be done at the Anniversary Dinner.

Mr. Mekenian opened the floor for any comments or questions. Edward Bashian thanked Peter Ajemian for all his help and cooperation.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Martha Saraydarian reported that there were 97 ballots cast with Paul Kahaumjian, Ely Karalian, Gerard Keosayian, Lucy Nakashian, Richard Papazian and Edward Parseghian elected to Parish Council with Ronald Demirjian as alternate. Sam Demirjian, Lillian Kasparian, Andy Ouzoonian, Albert Papazian and Zaven Poosikian as the Nominating Committee with Eileen Barsamian as alternate. Gary Arkell, Steven Jarahian and Artemis

Nazarian as Auditing Committee with Hermine Ajemian as alternate, and Michel Izmirly as Parish Assembly Chairman and Seta Izmirly as Assembly Secretary for 1986. Haroutun Mekhjian was elected to the Board of Trustees. Me. Mekenian thanked the Nominating Committee for an outstanding slate of Candidates and thanked all for their attendance and cooperation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.. Sixty members were still present.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Saraydarian
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Recording Secretary