

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
SECOND SESSION - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1988

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Mekenian at 1:30 PM and Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer. A quorum was established with a count of 91 members present.

Officers were introduced: Der Hayr, President
 George Mekenian, Chairman
 Roxy Daghlian, Secretary
and Chair appointed Ron Kenderian, Parliamentarian.

Minutes of the 1st Session were read and corrected as follows:

1. The subject of "absentee ballot" was omitted.
2. The recognition of the Alternate Chairman of the Assembly, Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian, was omitted.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected.

A motion was made to read the minutes of the 1987 General Assembly and approved; minutes were read and accepted with a minor correction.

The Chair established since written copies of all reports were given to the Assembly the previous week, discussion would follow as requested.

Der Hayr read the Pastor's Report.

Peter Ajemian, Parish Council Chairman, included the following omissions to the Parish Council Report.

1. The Martin (Sonny) Tashjian Fund secures the hall for the purpose of the Armenian Church Sports Association annual fund-raiser.
2. John Vaniskhian, Chairman of the Anniversary Dinner
3. Rupen Saddler, Chairman Anniversary Cake Donations.

Parish Relations Committee Report - After considerable discussion, the Chair urged the new Parish Council to establish guidelines and report their finds to the next General Assembly.

The Chair commended Peter Ajemian for his endurance in completing not only six years on the Parish Council but as Chairman. The magnitude of the burden he carried with great personal sacrifice received the appreciation and gratitude of the Assembly. The Chair also recognized Virginia Victoria and Grace Hagopian for their six consecutive years of outstanding service on the Parish Council.

Auditing Committee Report, Chairman Ardis Kasparian. Audit was conducted, however, some organizations' books were not available. The Parish Council being in transition from a manual system is in the process of setting up all financial records on a computer system. Due to this fact the Auditing Committee's recommendation is that a manual system be maintained until such time as the computer system takes over and further recommends that there be a follow-up to complete the audit.

The Chair recognized the organization chairpersons and entertained questions on all reports at this time.

Motion made by Peter Ajemian that all organizations of St. Thomas transfer funds in excess of \$5,000 to the Parish Council. The motion was seconded. Motion was defeated. Because of the great interest in the subject, the Chair recommended the Parish Council study the question of organization funds and present a report to next year's assembly.

Parish Council Treasurer's Report for 1987, Grace Hagopian, Treas., reported the following corrections and omissions:

- 1. Income and Expenses of the George Shahinian Fund.
Income: \$1,883.65; Expenses: Mailing & Postage \$172.00; College Breakfast \$76.41; College Dinner \$112.00; Vestments \$415.75; Refreshments \$352.16; Film \$83.00; Useage of facilities for (6) functions \$670.00.
- 2. ACEF - Interest should read \$1200.00 (1988)
- 3. \$1,000 to St. Nerses Seminary was paid in January, 1988 and was not reported as a 1987 commitment.

Grace Hagopian personally thanked Michel Izmirly for hjs expertise in supporting and assisting her in the preparation of the financial statements and budget proposals.

New Business: Peter Ajemian made the following motion:

"The Annual Assembly authorizes the Building Committee and the Parish Council acting jointly, to secure a mortgage, under favorable terms, to

cover the balance of the construction loan and the costs necessary to complete the renovation and grounds; the mortgage not to exceed \$300,000, nor exceed an annual payment of \$40,000. Motion was seconded and passed. Vote count 90 approved; none opposed. This satisfied the requirement of passage by a two-thirds vote.

Motion made for Parish Council to appoint three member committee to oversee the use and rental of our facilities. A committee already exists. An amendment was made to the motion that this committee function until such time as the Complex Administrator position is filled. Motion passed.

Joseph Kalemkerian reported the following proposals from the Parish Council to be made to the Proposals Committee of the Diocesan Assembly if approved.

Proposed change for Diocesan By-Law #22

In a Parish Assembly each member shall be entitled to one vote which is not transferable and must be cast in person.

Proposed change:

In a Parish Assembly each member shall be entitled to one vote which is not transferable and may be cast either by a. in person, or b. by absentee ballot, provided that a written request for the absentee ballot has been made at least two months prior to the Parish Assembly and that the individual has been a member of the Parish at least two years.

Proposal defeated.

Proposal for resolution:

The assembly petitions His eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian to present to His Holiness the Catholicos the request of this assembly that the marital status of candidates to the priesthood should not be a barrier to ordination. And that all qualified unmarried candidates be ordained to the Holy Priesthood if they desire, with a provision allowing them to marry at a later date if they desire and continue to serve as married priests.

Proposal passed.

The assembly petitions His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian to present to His Holiness the Catholicos the request of this assembly that the marital status of a clergyman should not be a barrier for achieving positions of higher authority and that consideration be given for the elevation of married clergymen to the rank of Bishop.

Proposal passed.

Proposal for resolution:

Since there is a shortage of priests and that there are parishes without pastors, and mission communities and college campuses in need of spiritual enlightenment, it is proposed that the Primate direct each Parish Priest to be available at least four times a year for assignment as a visiting priest to communities that do not have a spiritual leader. On these four occasions the deacons of the parish will conduct a Jashou Service.

Proposal passed.

Since there is a shortage of priests and that there are parishes without pastors and larger parishes needing assistant pastors that consideration be given to establishing a new category of clergy called a lay celebrant. Candidates who would qualify for this position would be men who are currently serving as deacons in the parishes. In the capacity of lay celebrant, they would not qualify to serve as a parish priest but would only serve as assistants and would celebrate the liturgy and perform other sacraments.

Proposal passed.

A motion by Joanne Torigian that a Good Samaritan Fund be established. Seconded and passed. Recommendation: The fund be administered by one person, namely, Der Hayr.

A motion by Antranig Ouzonian to engage a full-time custodian was seconded and passed. Chair recommends amending the budget to include cost of full-time custodian.

A motion to accept the budget was made and seconded.

Arax Parseghian moved to amend the motion to permit the Parish Council to reallocate from line items as proposed on budget. The amended motion to accept the budget was unanimously passed.

Election Results were reported by Arthur Azarik of the Nominating and Elections Committee, as follows:

338 eligible voters
174 voted
51% vote.

Parish Council (alphabetically)

Alice Arzoomanian
Ara Martaian
Arax Parseghian
Ara Pekmezian
Garabed Yazidjian
Gregory Tenbeckjian, Alternate

Nominating Committee (alphabetically)

Arthur Azarik
Grace Hagopian
Zaven Poosikian
Shakae Shahinian
Virginia Victoria
Ara Babigian, Alternate

Auditing Committee

Steve Jarahian
Ardis Kasparian
John Derderian and Susan Avakian Stoneson (tie vote)

Officers of 1989 Assembly

Antranig Ouzoonian, Chairman
Rose Mekenian, Secretary

Letter of commendation of Michel Izmirly from the Assembly for his work on behalf of St. Thomas was recommended in recognition for his work with the Parish Council on financial records and budget planning.

A motion was made by Puzant Torigian to transfer to the Good Samaritan Fund the amount of \$800, the balance from the 1987 budget - World Wide Chairty. Seconded, the motion passed.

Motion made and seconded - meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxy Daghlian