

28th ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
SESSION II - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1993

Immediately after the Divine Liturgy, the meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. A quorum of 50 paid members was ascertained by Secretary Martha Saraydarian. Hayr Soorp then led the Assembly in an opening prayer. Chairman Ouzoonian opened Session II, announced that Hayr Soorp would preside over the meeting. He introduced Vicar General Haigazoon Najarian from the Diocese and Diocesan Council member Dr. Edward Onanian as observers and to witness the proceedings and the counting of ballots. He stated voting would take place in Mekhjian Atrium and explained the voting procedures. Deacon Bedros Sarkissian explained the voting procedure in Armenian. Chairman Ouzoonian announced that motions would also be translated into Armenian. It was stated that members who had not yet paid their dues to date must first do so in order to be eligible to cast their ballots for the elections and also to be eligible to vote during the Assembly. Upon voter qualification a "voting card" will be given to the member which will be used as an indication of eligibility when raising their hands with the card when a vote is called. He reminded everyone that if you are a member of two parishes within the same Diocese, you may only vote in one parish.

Leon Nigohosian moved that balloting open within the next 15 minutes and be closed at 3 p.m. Chairman Ouzoonian asked if that was a reconsideration of the vote (taken at Session I at the Assembly last Sunday) to which Mr. Nigohosian responded that last week's vote on the opening and closing times is null and void as Robert's Rules of Order say you need a two-thirds vote. Chairman Ouzoonian's interpretation is you do not need a two-thirds vote. Mr. Nigohosian asked for an appeal. The Assembly noted in favor of the Chair making the decision. The motion stands as voted last week.

Chairman Ouzoonian explained the elections are governed by the Nominating and Auditing Committees. As there are three combined vacancies due to members of these committees running for office, he selected alternates Arthur Azarik, Alin Papazian and Jerry Keosayan to fill the vacancies.

Steve Jarahian made a motion to reconvene at 2 p.m. Puzant Torigian seconded. Virginia Victoria amended the motion to reconvene at 2:30 p.m. Susan Shamamian seconded, motion carried.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m. and a quorum was re-established. Chairman Ouzoonian introduced Vicar General Haigazoon Najarian who offered a prayer and read a message sent by Sirpazan Barsamian.

Hayr Papken offered a prayer for the deceased members of St. Thomas Church. He spoke about the parish and offered to meet with those parishioners who have concerns about St. Thomas Church.

Chairman Ouzoonian announced that the meeting would be run according to the Armenian Church of America Eastern Diocesan By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Order. He then referred to the tabled motion from Session I waiving the reading of the 1992 Parish Assembly Minutes and asked for any

additions or corrections to the minutes.

It was noted that on page 9, after Mary Ann Saraydarian's name, the year should be 1992. Rose Mekenian referred to page 4 section 4 that Judge Gurahian is Chairman not president of the Diocesan Council, that on page 5 third line from the bottom the sentence "Rose Mekenian again appealed to Chairman Ouzoonian to read her statement" is incomplete and thus unclear and requested adding 'addressing misunderstanding in the parish.' Yeretzkin Violet Kasparian noted that the Parish Council decision regarding the establishment of in-lieu-of flower donations into a memorial fund was omitted from the Assembly Report and requested it be included in the 1993 minutes. A correction was made page 7, last line last paragraph to include 'up to \$10,000.'.

Joseph Kalemkerian noted that on page 5 the word 'majority' should be added in reference to Parish Council report which 8 of 11 members signed. He also requested on page 5 next to last paragraph adding the word 'majority' before Parish Council report.

Ara Babigian questioned the validity of the sentence 'The Chairperson of the Parish Council responded.', page 4 second paragraph. Chairman Ouzoonian explained that the response need not be recorded, only that one was made.

Steve Jarahian motioned and Celia Martaian seconded that the minutes be accepted as corrected. Motion carried.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk made a motion that Agenda item 18, 19, and 20, Approval of Proposed Budget for 1993, Old Business and New Business respectively be moved to after item 5 and then proceed in order. Edward Bashian seconded. The purpose of the motion was to insure ample time to discuss important issues. Chairman Ouzoonian appointed Henry Hagopian, Greg Papazian, Levon Altiparmakian and Peter Babigian as counters and instructed them to count "voting cards" (blue) row by row to avoid confusion. The question was called and defeated by a two-thirds vote. The Agenda remains as previously approved at Parish Assembly Session I, January 31, 1993.

Joanne Torigian then gave the Parish Council Chairman's report. She said she was remiss in not including Samuel and Alicia Demirjian as chairpersons and Alice and Edward Parseghian award recipients under the heading Anniversary Dinner. The date of the Diocesan Assembly should read April 30 to May 3 not April 22. Also, figures stated under Building Contractor Settlement were those given at the time she compiled her report. Puzant Torigian felt that under Bazaar, contributors should have been thanked.

Edward Bashian, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, announced the addition of three new members, Arthur Azarik, Mary Ann Saraydarian and Michael Halebian. There ensued some discussion concerning the manner in which Board of Trustee members are designated. George Mekenian read from the by-laws stating that after consultation between the Board of Trustees and the Parish Council, the Parish Council shall present to the Parish Assembly names of new members for confirmation by the Assembly.

During Session I, the Assembly had confirmed the new members. For the record, Chairman Ouzoonian asked Parish Council Chairperson Joanne Torigian to second Edward Bashian's confirmation of the aforementioned new members. Mrs. Torigian seconded.

Hayr Soorp felt it was unnecessary to read his report as everyone had a copy. There were no questions.

Albert Victoria asked if any sums listed under Memorial Donors are specifically earmarked. The response was as follows: Michael Fuhrman donation for his wife's memorial garden, Araxie Pichigian donation for final payment on the front doors and the remaining amounts for carpeting for the Parish House.

There were no questions for Albert Victoria concerning the Building Committee Report.

Moses Kazanjian, reporting on The Facilities and Management Committee, a new title under Building Committee, corrected the \$25,000 amount on page 15. It should read \$22,500. No questions were asked.

Virginia Victoria reported that a new landscaper has been hired who will also provide snow removal as his bid was the lowest. John Vaniskian commented that with the increased number of members, perhaps we can have volunteers do some of the ground work.

There were no questions on the Armenian History report.

Dr. Levon Capan reported that officers of the Kasparian Fund had been changed. Edward Parseghian asked why the original trustees had been taken off. Parish Council Chairperson responded that the charter says the terms of office had long expired, therefore, a new committee was elected. George Mekenian read a letter in response to a Nor Tar Ed. Note clarifying his and Joseph Kalemkerian's length of terms of office on the Kasparian Fund. Violet Kasparian and Edward Parseghian requested that the letter be included in the 1993 minutes. After obtaining permission from George Mekenian, Chairman Ouzoonian so moved.

In Shake Shahinian's absence, Joanne Torigian noted that the Shahinian Fund should read \$250.00 to A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs.

Sonia Tashjian requested that one of her four sons be included as a permanent member of the Martin Sonny Tashjian Fund. Dr. Capan responded that a letter of confirmation from the Parish Council would be forthcoming.

Levon Altiparmakian from A.C.Y.O.A., Srs. reported that the \$1,400 profit from their dance has been donated to the church and another charitable organization and the accounts have been settled. Joseph Kalemkerian asked why the Christmas Eve collection is being used for a dance without Parish Council approval. Chairman Ouzoonian responded that an answer would be forthcoming.

There were no questions for the A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs., the Avaks, The Senior Choir nor The Junior Choir.

Shnorig Bashian added that \$415.00 was collected by Sunday School from a crop walk on Oct. 18 and an Emerson Home visitation will take place.

There were no questions for Kirikian Armenian School nor for Mens Club.

Adrienne Tenbekjian added to the Women's Guild report that the Women's Guild Assembly was held at St. Davids, Boca Raton, Florida on May 1 and 2. Delegates were Susan Avakian Stoneson, Violet Kasparian and Rose Mekenian.

As the Auditing Committee was still out counting ballots, a statement from them was read by Chairman Ouzoonian stating that all books and records of the church and its organizations had been examined and were in good order. They recommend that all organizations use our church tax exempt number when making purchases and when possible, checks should be made out to corporations not individuals.

Grace Hagopian thanked Laureen Karanfilian for helping in the preparation of the 1993 Budget. Seta Izmirly updated the final figure for the bazaar, \$44,772. The correct figure for income from Kef Night is \$10,541. The bookstore deficit figure will be looked into and corrected by Dikris Malool. The correct 1992 Surplus figure is \$17,629. Chairman Ouzoonian recommended that the item listed as Father Papken Project be changed to read Religious Items so as to avoid confusion.

Under Expenses, Violet Kasparian noted that the increase in the Choir Directors and Director of Christian Education's salaries were decided upon at last years Assembly and should be listed as such under 1992 Budget.

After some discussion concerning mileage expenses for the clergy auto, Chairman Ouzoonian directed Grace Hagopian to check on the Diocesan guidelines.

Joanne Torigian made a motion for the outside accounting firms audit report and letter be printed and sent to all parishoners and made a part of these minutes. Seconded by Steve Jarahian. Thomas Kasparian amended the motion to print a limited number of copies and give a copy to each organization of the church and have some copies available for anyone who wants it. The amended motion carried.

Garabed Yazidjian made a motion to increase the caretakers salary to \$26,000. Mathew Keshishian seconded. Jeame Amerkanian amended the the motion and Mary Sanossian seconded that the salary be increased up to \$26,000 based on a review of his performance by the Parish Council. The amendment carried. The amended motion also carried.

Albert Victoria made a motion, seconded by Richard Saraydarian, that \$5,000 be added to the Capital Improvement Budget. Motion carried.

Leon Nigohosian made a motion based on the treasurer's recommendation to increase the rental line item amount to balance the budget, that the 1993 Budget be adopted. Seconded by Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. Budget was adopted.

Concerning Old Business, Edward Bashian brought forth the question of paying off the existing mortgage of approximately \$103,000. The monies would come from Board of Trustees, \$56,000, Building Committee, \$34,203, Mr. & Mrs. Nazar Nazarian Donation, \$11,000. Mr Nazar Nazarian donated an additional \$5,000 in order to be able to comfortably pay off the mortgage. Leon Nigohosian expressed concern that paying off the mortgage will leave us with nothing. Virginia Victoria countered that by placing the monthly \$2,000 plus mortgage payment aside, a reserve will quickly build up.

Edward Bashian made a motion to pay off the mortgage with the combined monies from the Board of Trustees, Building Committee and the Nazarian donation and recommended that the \$24,000 plus budgeted for mortgage payments be allocated to the Facilities and Management Committee. Nazar Nazarian seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Varoujan Aslanian donated \$5,000 for the maintenance of the building.

Violet Kasparian expressed her displeasure at not being asked to be on the Library Committee. Extensive discussion ensued. Marion Kahaumjian made a motion to add Violet Kasparian as a professional to the Library Committee. Edward Parseghian seconded. The motion was called and defeated. Hayr Papken announced that he will seriously reconsider the defeat of the motion as he has the authority to appoint members.

Virginia Victoria made a motion to close Old Business. Richard Saraydarian seconded. Motion carried.

Peter Kalemkerian suggested that in the future a Sergeant at Arms be appointed to maintain order.

George Ajemian recommended that in the future four wireless microphones be available and that the Parish Council Chairperson sit at the dais.

Charles Amerkanian made a motion that in the interest of fiscal responsibility, the cut-off date for payment of dues be December 31 provided it is permitted by the Diocesan By-Laws at its Assembly May 1993. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk seconded. Motion called and carried.

Henry Hagopian made a motion to vote to elect Hayr Soorp for a 5 year term. Chairman Ouzoonian stated that Hayr Soorp had been appointed by the Primate and only the Primate can extend or rescind the appointment. Further, the issue should have been proposed at Session I when he asked if there were any additions to the Agenda.

New Business was closed.

Under Unfinished Business, as the Auditing Committee had returned to the Assembly, The Chair asked them to officially give their report.

Election Results: Hermine Ajemian announced the election results. She thanked Dr. Onanian and the Vicar General for their help in counting the ballots. 471 ballots were cast.

For Parish Council: Frank Avakian-Stoneson, Eileen Barsamian, Leon Nigohosian, Richard Saraydarian, Jack Torosian, Virginia Victoria. Alternates are Seta Kantarjian, Edward Parseghian and Paul Kahaumjian.

For Auditing Committee: Jeannie Amerkanian, Verkin Berberian, Aram Setian, Albert Victoria, Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. First alternate, Rose Mekenian, second alternate, Shake Shahinian, third alternate, Alicia Demirjian.

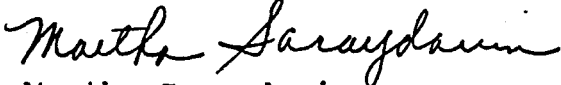
For Auditing Committee: Sandra Alpino, Gregory Amerkanian, Araxie Pichigian with alternates Seta Izmirly and Mary Sanossian.

For the 1993 Assembly: Antranig Ouzoonian as Chairman and Mary Ann Saraydarian as Secretary.

Dr. Levon Capan made a motion to adjourn at 7 p.m., seconded by Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

The meeting concluded with a prayer by Rev. Father Anoushian.

Respectfully Submitted



Martha Saraydarian
Secretary
1993 Parish Assembly

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