

**29TH PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH**

SESSION II - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1994

Chairman Ouzoonian asked Grace Hagopian, Treasurer of Parish Council, to ascertain that at least fifty paid members were present to establish a quorum.

Immediately after the Divine Liturgy, the meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. Very Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian, Pastor and President, then led the Assembly in an opening prayer. Chairman Ouzoonian opened Session II. He then introduced Fr. Papken Anoushian as the presiding officer, Antranig Ouzoonian as Chairman, and Sylva Torosian as Alternate Secretary, elected Secretary Mary Ann Saraydarian being unable to perform, but thanked her for coming as a back-up secretary.

He then explained the procedure of the day: After taking care of certain items, we will recess and vote. Voting will terminate at 2:30 pm, and during the recess period members will be qualified for voting, they will vote, and have lunch, and will reconvene at 2:30. He then instructed them on the voting procedure, and he reminded everyone that if you are a member of two parishes within the same Diocese, you may only vote in one parish. Chairman Ouzoonian announced that the meeting would be conducted according to the By-Laws of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church and Roberts Rules of Order.

Fr. Papken then announced that if anyone wishes to check the voting list, he/she may do so. The list will be available both at the meeting and in the Mekhjian Atrium.

Ara Babigian then took the floor and stated that the N.J. statute 15A 5-8 was checked by his attorney for its validity and that there were no amendments to the statute 15A 5-8 that was written in October 1, 1983. He then added that the list that was presented to them on Friday, February 4, was not the same as the one at the meeting because it did not contain the phone numbers and the membership numbers.

Fr. Papken responded to Ara Babigian with an explanation. Chairman Ouzoonian commented that the list may contain the names, addresses, and not necessarily the telephone numbers or membership numbers.

Chairman Ouzoonian then stated that the accounting for the balloting would be conducted by the Nominating and Auditing Committees. The slate for today's election has six of the candidates of the Nominating and Auditing Committees on it. Therefore, he requested that those individuals not get involved in counting the ballots, and the present alternates will do so. Then he announced the names of the candidates for the Nominating Committee who are running: Eugenie Amerkanian, Verken Berberian, Aram Setian. The

Alternates for Nominating Committee were: Rose Mekenian, who accepted the position, and Shakae Shahinian, who was the next alternate but was disqualified because she was running for Delegate. Third Alternate was Alicia Demirjian, but she was not present, so in the absence of those two Alternates Chairman Ouzoonian appointed Jack Ekizian and Tony Ajemian for the position, who later was disqualified because he was not a dues paying member. Mrs. Babigian volunteered for the position. For the candidates of the Auditing Committee, Greg Amerkanian, Sandra Alpino, and Araxie Pichigian were running for offices, so they were disqualified, and the Alternates were Seta Izmirly and Mary Sanossian. Sirvart Demirjian volunteered for the position.

A question was raised if there was a conflict of interest in appointing Mrs. Mekenian and Mrs. Babigian because their husbands were running for positions. Chairman Ouzoonian answered there was no conflict, because they were individual people. Ani Capan asked for a vote on that matter. Chairman Ouzoonian answered it was the Chair's decision and there was no need for a vote. Ani Capan appealed to the Chair's decision. The appeal was seconded and the Chair making the decision on the appeal was defeated. Two new pollsters were appointed: Jack Ekizian, Shakae Artinian, Lucy Nakashian. New Auditing Committee members were: Seta Izmirly, Mary Sanossian, Sirvart Demirjian.

Chairman Ouzoonian entertained a motion to reconvene at 2:30 p.m. Seta Izmirly seconded, and the motion was carried at 11:55 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m. and a quorum was re-established. Chairman Ouzoonian thanked the luncheon committee of Ann Ajemian and her group.

Chairman Ouzoonian stated that the voting ballot did not coincide with the ballot approved by the Assembly at the First Session. He further added that some of the candidates that were running for particular offices had requested that their names should be withdrawn from the list. Eugenie Amerkanian, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee stated that, the following candidates duly withdrew their candidacy during the week before the election. The names are: For Nominating Committee: Aida Bozian Alice Gesar, Luci Ezgilioglu, Shake Torigian, and Kevork Keskinian. For Delegates: Ida Bozian. For Auditing Committee: Natalie Capan, Vicken Ezgilioglu, Irma Saganda and Arshalouys Shahinian.

Chairman Ouzoonian entertained a motion that the names on the ballot at present be accepted. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Yavru-Sakuk made a motion that all of the actions taken and decisions reached at the last Sunday's meeting are proper and legal. He moved that this meeting approve and ratify last Sunday's meeting and all of those actions and decisions. Motion was seconded by Leon Nigogosian. Motion was carried.

There were no more questions and the meeting proceeded to the correction of the minutes of 1993 Assembly.

It was noted that on page 49 the last word was spelled incorrectly it should be "alternate". Chairman Ouzoonian entertained a motion that the First Session minutes be approved. Virginia Victoria made the motion. Grace Hagopian seconded. Motion was carried.

Under the Second Session last page 56 a correction was made that the word Very should be added before Rev. Also same page second paragraph should be Nominating Committee. Page 54 Queenie Varjian should be added in front of the paragraph six. Rose Mekenian made a motion. From Caspar Kasparian Memorial Fund page 18 2nd paragraph at the end, add the words "and St. Nersses Seminars." Page 19 the ACEF fund balance should be \$61,434.51. Page 55 2nd Paragraph add the word "annually" into the sentence, "Building Committee and the Nazarian donation and recommended that the \$24,000 plus budgeted for mortgage payments be allocated annually to the..." Page 56 4th paragraph should read 1994 instead of 1993. Chairman Ouzoonian entertained a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Paul Kahaumjian made the motion. Motion was seconded. Motion was carried.

Chairman invited Fr. Papken Anoushian to give his report.

Fr. Papken then took the floor and stated that he has put all his primary concerns in his report and that if he has forgotten anything he was ready to answer and entertain any question. He thanked Mr. & Mrs. Nerses Demirjian for donating a cross to the church.

Chairman Ouzoonian asked if there were any questions for Fr. Papken. A question was raised about the availability of a portable microphone for use during the meeting. Chairman Ouzoonian agreed and stated that we will have one next year.

Dr. Levon Capan then gave the Parish Council Chairman's report. He thanked Fr. Papken for being very instrumental in a financially very successful year. He also thanked the Parish Council members and the members of different organizations, and all individuals who helped and contributed so generously. He mentioned the names of Mr. & Mrs. Onnig Bozian for chairing the Cake Sale for the Anniversary Dinner. Also the name of Mr. & Mrs. Aram Setian for helping with the computer. He wished the Parish a very happy and profitable year and wished that God will bring us the love, respect and understanding of one another.

After a lengthy discussion between Yerezgin Kasparian and Dr. Levon Capan about the Library Funds, Yerezgin Kasparian stated that she had not handled any funds, that all the money was given to the Parish Council around 1988-1989 and most of that money was used towards the renovation of the Library. Dr. Capan as Chairman of the Parish Council along with Virginia Victoria, Chairman of the Library Committee, stated that every effort was made to locate any financial report as to the funds, but they were unsuccessful. Furthermore Dr. Capan added that the present Parish Council would like to be waived of any responsibility for those missing funds. Chairman Ouzoonian entertained a motion that

the new Auditing Committee review this matter. Motion was seconded. Motion was carried. Yeretzgin Kasparian further said that, she will write a letter directing that the annual interest on \$5,000 from the Fr. Arnak and Yeretzgin Kasparian Fund should go to the Library Fund.

There were no questions for Dr. Mekhjian on the Board of Trustees' Report.

There were some corrections on the Calendar of Events. Page 12 April 16 add St. Thomas Basketball Team Award Dinner sponsored by Men's Club and Women's Guild. Also June 18, honoring Gregory Doudoukjian as the first St. Thomas Graduate of St. Nerses Seminary, sponsored by Men's Club and Women's Guild, added to the list. Page 16 correction on George Shahinian Memorial Fund \$20,586.00. Question was raised on the interest of the Caspar Kasparian Memorial Fund. Grace Hagopian stated that, that was the figure that she had gotten. Furthermore she added that the Peter Ajemian Memorial Fund of \$5,000 should be added to the A.C.E.F. list.

On the Building Committee report Jack Torosian, being the Parish Council Liaison, took the floor. Question was raised about the current situation of the Church, as what is being done about the heating and leakage problems. Jack Torosian stated that every effort has been made to fix the problem. Another question was raised by Paul Kahaumjian about the insurance settlement on page 17. Mr. Jack Torosian explained the settlement. Mr. Leon Nigogosian commented and complimented Mr. Torosian on a job well done for the Building Committee.

Chairman Ouzoonian reminded the Assembly attendees that if you are not a dues paid member you cannot vote, nor participate in discussions, nor express opinions at the Assembly.

There were no questions on the Church Ground, or the Armenian History lectures.

No question on Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund.

On George Shahinian Memorial Fund there was a correction by Mrs. Shaka Shahinian on the name Alex Loris being one name.

No question on Martin Sonny Tashjian Memorial Fund. No questions for the A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. , or the A.C.Y.O.A. Srs. No questions for the Avak Society-Senior Citizens. No question for the Choir, but there was a clarification by the Chairperson Eugenie Amerkanian about the names of the Advisors, who were Ara Martaian, Susan Shamamian and Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

Sunday School Superintendent Shnorhig Bashian stated that we now have about 132 students. Mr. Soukiassian congratulated Shnorhig Bashian for a job well done. Question was clarified that the expenses under donation, was a donation to a sister Church Sunday School in Armenia.

Kirikian Armenian School Treasurer Mary Ann Saraydarian made a correction that this year the benefit Art Auction was their largest source of income. She also mentioned that they had 16 teachers. Leon Nigogosian praised both Mary Ann and Martha Saraydarian for volunteering their efforts for over 20 years.

Question was raised on the Men's Club Treasurer's Report of 1993, that the \$500 donation to St. Thomas from the Bowling League was not towards the rental of the hall. After a lengthy discussion over the expenses of the Men's Club Treasurer Report, and lack of their participation in certain church activities such as the Church Picnic and the Church Bazaar, Chairman Ouzoonian asked if there were any more questions. No questions, and the meeting proceeded to the Women's Guild report, where there were no questions.

Sandra Alpino stated that the Auditing Committee reviewed all organizational accounting ledgers, and found them in order. A suggestion was made to the Auditing Committee that all the books from the organizations should be checked semi-annually, and that a letter to this effect should be sent to the organizations by the Parish Council. It was noted that this procedure was approved by a previous Parish Assembly.

Parish Council Treasurer Grace Hagopian explained the 1993 Budget Report and entertained all questions. Question was raised as to why under Auxiliary Organizations, the Men's Club had no figures. Mrs. Hagopian explained that the \$500 was considered a rental, and was under hall rentals. Jack Ekizian, Treasurer of the Men's Club, stated that the Parish Council requested the Men's Club to pay for all expenses for the A.C.Y.O.A Basketball Team, that is why no donations to the Church was shown on the report. Suggestion was made by Chairman Ouzoonian that in the future all organizations, including the Men's Club, should give all disbursements concerning Church matters to the Parish Council for transmittal.

After some discussion concerning clergy auto expense, Grace Hagopian clarified that according to the Diocesan Guidelines for, Parish owned vehicles, all expenses are assumed by the Parish. Question was raised by Chairman Ouzoonian regarding approximately how much is per membership dues to the Diocese. Grace Hagopian answered approx. \$60 per person.

Edward Parseghian made a motion to increase the St. Nersses Seminary Educational donation from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year. Ara Babigian seconded. An amendment to the motion was made by Hagop Jebejian for \$2,500. Motion was seconded but defeated. Al Victoria suggested that with the increase of our future expenses we should increase the amount of architectural maint. fund from \$18,000 to \$24,000. The change was accepted. Furthermore Al Victoria moved to transfer \$6,000 from our 1993 surplus to Arch. Maint. Fund. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Leon Nigogosian moved to approve the budget. Henry Hagopian seconded. Budget approved.

Leon Nigogosian moved that the Parish Council be authorized to adjust the numbers of the budget by plus or minus 10% in the upcoming year. Amendment to the motion was made by Jack Charshafian, that the budget can be adjusted up to plus or minus 5%. Motion was seconded. Paul Kahaumjian made an amendment to the amended motion, that it exclude the salaries and benefits. It was seconded by Violet Kasparian. Motion was defeated. The original motion that the budget can be adjusted up to or plus or minus 5% was put up to a vote. Motion was carried.

Under Old Business Puzant Torigian made a motion to reactivate the Parishioners Concern Committee. Motion was not seconded.

Under New Business Virginia Victoria made a motion that the Parish Council have the power to extend Fr. Papken's contract for 5 years. Motion was seconded by Dr. Yavru-Sakuk. After further discussion, the motion was re-stated by Virginia Victoria that the Parish Council be empowered to offer a 5 year contract to Fr. Anoushian, to be ratified, if necessary, by a special Parish Assembly. Dr. Yavru seconded. Chairman Ouzoonian stated that Fr. Papken was appointed by Primate and only He can extend Fr. Papken's tenure. Furthermore, as far as he knows, there are no contracts between Parish and Pastor in any other Parish of the Diocese. In response to the Chairman's comments, it was stated that this was not an election for the Pastor to the Parish for 5 years, but it was merely a contract. Chairman Ouzoonian called the motion. Motion was carried.

Mary Bozian made a motion that Parish Council review the By-Laws of the various organizations, to inform the assembly what is in there, as far as membership is concerned. After further discussion, the motion was changed to read that the Parish Council should review and adjust, if necessary, the By-Laws of all parish organizations that are not under the jurisdiction of By-Laws that are provided for them by the Diocese. If there are no By-Laws for an organization, the Parish Council should provide By-Laws for them. Dr. Capan seconded. Motion was carried.

Leon Nigogosian made a motion that the Parish Council have the Power of Attorney for all the accounts of the organizations. Dr. Capan seconded. After further discussion the motion was ruled out-of-order by Chairman Ouzoonian, because according to the By-Laws, Parish Council has the right to supervise and regulate the financial and administrative affairs of the organizations.

Ani Capan stated that a few months ago, a large name plate appeared on top of the Library door. Chairman Ouzoonian then stated that it was illegal, that it was done without permission, and therefore the Parish Council has the right to take it down.

Yeretzgin Kasparian clarified that a letter had been forwarded to Virginia Victoria, explaining that the plate was donation by Mr. Setrag Agonian, and that Movses Kazanjian had okayed it, as Chairman of the Arch. Committee.

Motion was made by Grace Hagopian, that for any affair, function, event or purpose, any St. Thomas organization, making an expenditure or disbursement exceeding \$500 must seek Parish Council's approval. The organization must also submit the limit of the total proposed expenditure at the time of request. Dr. Capan seconded. Motion was carried.

Motion was made by Susan Shamamian that in order to be considered an eligible voter for a given year, the balance of an individual's annual membership dues (including outstanding dues for the previous years), must be postmarked or delivered during normal business hours, to the Church office, no later than December 31st of the previous calendar year. George Mekenian seconded. Motion was carried.

Ed Parseghian further added that if for any reason a check gets to the church office with a postmark later than December 31st, the office should show the envelope to that member and inform him/her that the postmark was overdue. Fr. Papken agreed with that statement and assured him that it will be done.

Motion was made by Ed Parseghian, that on the invitation to the next Parish Assembly, the time when the Second Session is starting should be indicated. Fr. Papken agreed and assured him that he will do it, and that there was no need for voting.

Edward Parseghian also made a motion that new members sign their own names their membership cards. Their names should be printed in the Nor Tar. Also, names and addresses of the new members must be presented to Parish Council. Motion was seconded. Motion was carried. New Business was closed.

The Auditing Committee returned to the Assembly. The Chair asked them to officially give their report. 270 votes were cast in the elections.

Election results: Eugenie Amerkanian announced the election results as follows;

Parish Council: Ann Ajemian, Arpi Arslanian, Dr. Levon Capan, Grace Hagopian, Susan Shamamian. Alternates are Ara Martaian and Ed Parseghian.

Nominating Committee: Eugenie Amerkanian, Aram Setian, Marie Zokian, Marie Camcikian, Ani Kecoglu. Alternates are Susan Stoneson and Shakae Shahinian.

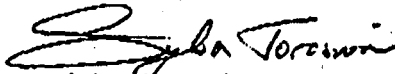
Delegates: Varoujan Arslanian, Dr. Levon Capan, Dr. Harout Mekhjian, Gregory Saraydarian, Albert Victoria, Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, and Levon Nazarian. Alternates are Ara Martaian and Victor Arzoomanian.

**Auditing: Greg Amerkanian, Murad Halajian, Araxie Fichigian. Alternate Sandra Alpino.
Parish Assembly Chairman 1995: Leon Nigogosian. Alternate Andy Ouzoonian.
Secretary: Madlen Setian.**

**Leon Nigogosian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by
Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.**

**The meeting concluded with a prayer by Very Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian at 7:25
p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,



**Sylva Torosian
Alternate Secretary
1994 Parish Assembly**



**Antranig Ouzoonian
Chairman
1994 Parish Assembly**



**V. Rev. Fr. Papken Anoushian
Pastor & President**