

ST. THOMAS ARMENIAN CHURCH
32nd PARISH ASSEMBLY
SESSION II, FEBRUARY 2, 1997

Chairman Nigohosian opened the meeting and appointed Arpi Cankar and George Mekenian to be counters for the day. He asked all those eligible to vote to raise their hands in order to establish a quorum. Ms. Cankar and Mr. Mekenian verified that there is a quorum present.

Fr. Papken delivered the opening prayer.

Dr. Levon Capan made a motion to close all nominations. Ani Capan seconded and motion carried.

Chairman Nigohosian announced that the meeting would be conducted according to the Diocesan By-Laws and Roberts Rules of Order. He stated that questions must be addressed to the chair. He further stated that if a question has already been asked and answered, he would not accept the question again. The procedure for speaking is to hold up blue cards and when recognized give your name and membership number.

Mr. Nigohosian announced that the voting list is available for inspection during voting and at any other time during the year.

Madlen Setian made a motion to recess until 2:15p.m. It was seconded by Sylva Torosian and the motion carried.

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The meeting was reconvened at 2:20 p.m. by Chairman Nigohosian. He announced that as a quorum was established at the opening, there was no need to do so again.

For purposes of clarity, Chairman Nigohosian explained the differences between membership lists and voting lists. As some of the titles have caused confusion, he recommended that the Parish Council give thought to changing the titles so that they will be distinguishable from each other. The CHURCH MEMBERSHIP LIST: is available to everyone and anyone to examine or to receive to take with them. It includes a member's pledge number, his/her name,

address, phone number. It does not contain any financial information or indicate whether he/she is eligible to vote.

The VOTING MEMBERSHIP LIST (or Member Voting List): contains all the information found in the Church Membership List plus information as to whether an individual has the right to vote in the elections as well as during The Parish Assembly.

The Third List contains all the information contained in the two lists described above and also includes financial information of members, both those who are fully paid and those who are in arrears.

Under established policy, continued Chairman Nigohosian, anyone may receive a Membership List. The Third List, which includes membership information as well as financial information is available for inspection in the church office during business hours or by special appointment, and is available now for anyone wishing to review it during this meeting. This is in accordance with two directives from the Diocese, one of which says that anyone inspecting that list must sign a statement that they will not use that information for any gainful or commercial purposes.

Chairman Nigohosian stated that the New Jersey statute compels that we allow inspection of the list containing financial information but are not obligated to provide lists to be taken off the premises. There are many parishoners, continued the Chairman, who do not wish their pledges (which may be much higher than the minimum dues) nor what portion of said pledges have been paid to become public knowledge, which may occur if this type of list is distributed.

Mr. John Bashian asked if this Third List is yearly or cumulative to which Chairman Nigohosian answered that the list is updated yearly and is not cumulative.

Mr. Ara Babigian stated that the list he saw and requested only recorded pledge money and not other donations. Chairman Nigohosian responded that the format of the list Mr. Babigian had previously requested contained all the information as to how much a member pledged and how much they paid. He further stated that he did not know where Mr. Babigian obtained a copy of one page of said list dated 1994 as the church never gave out the voting list with financial information but had simply made it available to him for inspection on the church premises.

Mr. Babigian asked for the status of the request he made at the first session of the Parish Assembly (1/26/97) that he be given a copy of the voting list which contains financial information. Chairman Nigohosian responded that Mr. Babigian had received a copy of a letter which had been immediately sent to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Honorable Vincent Gurahian, Diocesan Council Chairman. He proceeded to read the letter in its entirety to the Assembly. A copy of the letter is attached to these minutes.

When Mr. Babigian asked what takes precedence, a New Jersey statute or a Diocesan ruling, Chairman Nigohosian stated that the New Jersey statutes speak in terms of access, inspection and extracts, they do not talk in terms of providing copies. Therefore, St. Thomas Church has fully adhered to all New Jersey statutes on the topic.

Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk made a motion to close the polls. It was seconded by Mary Sanossian. Motion carried by 2/3 plus. The Chair thanked the lunch committee for a job well done.

Chairman Nigohosian entertained a motion to dispense with the reading of last year's Parish Assembly minutes unless there were corrections, additions or deletions. Mr. Zaven Halajian made a motion to dispense with the reading of the 1996 Parish Assembly Minutes sessions I and II. Ann Ajemian seconded and the motion carried.

Mr. Albert Victoria, referring to page 6A, third paragraph from the bottom, asked if the \$5000 was in the Board of Trustees Fund or The Building Fund. Parish Council Chairman, Dr. Capan, responded that the money was donated to the Building Fund but went into the Board of Trustees Fund.

The Chairman invited V. Rev. Fr. Papken Dz. V. Anoushian to give his report. Fr. Anoushian stated that as everyone had the written copy he would not read it but would be happy to answer any questions. He thanked the Altar Guild for their care of the St. Thomas Altar, Mrs. Laureen Karanfilian, CPA for preparing the St. Thomas payroll taxes and Mr. Hovhanness Baltaian for his services to the Armenian School.

Chairman Nigohosian invited Parish Council Chairman, Dr. Levon Capan to give his report. Dr. Capan expressed his delight with the surplus fund which is almost \$100,000. He expressed his appreciation for Fr. Papken and stated his pride in the fact that Fr. Papken had been chosen staff bearer when Patriarch Torkoom

Manoogian visited the United States. He profusely thanked the entire congregation for the huge success of St. Thomas's events and further expressed appreciation toward all those who used church funds in the most economic ways possible.

Dr. Capan recognized Mrs. Mari Tashjian's efforts towards hall rentals and went on to thank and introduce the following Parish Council Members:

Leon Nigohosian	Vice Chairman
Grace Hagopian	Treasurer
Madlen Setian	Assistant Treasurer
Virginia Victoria	Recording Secretary
Susan Shamamian	Corresponding Secretary
Richard Saraydaria	
Mari Camcikyan	
Arpi Arslania	
Jack Torosian	
Ann Ajemian	

Dr. Capan apologized for his error in naming The Avak Society's Chairman. It is Mr. Charles Sarajian.

Mr. Ara Babigian asked if there is a Parish Council person in charge of membership. Dr. Capan replied that although there is no one Parish Council member in charge of membership, Mrs. Ani Capan had been appointed recently.

Mrs. Mary Ann Saraydarian asked which member of the Parish Council was completing their six year term of office to which Dr. Capan replied, Mrs. Virginia Victoria.

Chairman Nigohosian called upon Grace Hagopian to give the financial summary. He complimented Mrs. Hagopian on the extraordinary job she has done as treasurer.

Beginning with the Income Statement, Mrs. Hagopian responded to Mr. Victoria's question that the \$5000 which had been withdrawn from The Board of Trustees Fund and placed in a non St. Thomas ACEF Fund had been recovered and was part of general Miscellaneous Income and not specifically identified.

Before accepting questions for the 1997 budget, Mrs. Hagopian profusely thanked assistant treasurer Madlen Setian for all her help throughout the year. She commended the Women's Guild for

Dr. Capan asked for the floor to append his Parish Council report comments. He apologized for omitting to state that St. Thomas Church had received \$30,000 from the estate of the late Mr. Harry Bostanjan. Parish Council will display a plaque in his honor. He further clarified the actual amount of the surplus. While \$81,000 of it had come from our insurance claim, \$36,000 had already been paid toward the new roof. So the figure at this point is \$100,00 plus \$36,000 less \$81,000.

Dr. Capan went on to thank Mr. Antranig Ouzoonian, coordinator, Mr. Haroutuin Diratzouian, and Mr. Jack Torosian for undertaking and conscientiously working on the roof project. He invited Mr. Ouzoonian forward to give an overview of the project.

Mr. Ouzoonian explained that the roof over Saddler Hall, Mekhjian Atrium, the kitchen and classrooms was a rubber roof, which was popular at one time but has proven to be very problematic. The roof at the rear of the church (the back classrooms and lavatories) also needed replacement. They decided to go for a total replacement (rather than patches) at a contract price of \$73,000. While removing the old roof, large areas of rotted wood were detected and needed replacement. As work progressed, several areas were found to be open and needed to be patched. Rusted air conditioning ducts were detected and changed and insulation was added where needed. With all the additional work done, the cost rose to approximately \$100,000. We have a 20 year, no dollar limit, guarantee on labor and material with the contractor performing all the labor the first 3 years and GAF (manufacturer of the roofing materials) taking over thereafter. GAF has inspected all the work done.

Chairman Nigohosian called upon the auditing committee chairperson Sirvart Demirjian. Mrs. Demirjian stated that the auditing committee examined all financial records of all church organizations including the St. Thomas Church balance sheet and found no discrepancies. The written report was submitted and signed by herself, Talin Kupelian and Hovsep Taktajian.

Under Old Business, Yz. Violet Kasparian commended Dr. Capan on the concise Diocesan Assembly Report he had written and pointed out that it should be signed Dr. Levon Capan, Delegate.

Under New Business, Mr. Victoria made a motion that we allow \$15,000 in the budget to hire people to do the catch-up work on maintenance and repairs that are being neglected now because we have not budgeted for them. Antranig Ouzoonian seconded. Madlen

Setian commented that the budget already includes monies for several repairs. Mr. Victoria responded that there are many repairs needed which are not included in those categories, i.e., refinishing furniture, the entrance doors etc. Dr. Capan countered that \$2,000 is put aside each month toward building maintenance. Mr. Victoria responded that the purpose of the \$2,000 per month is not intended for general repairs. Dr. Capan stated that the Parish Council is aware of what needs to be done and is completing the work on a priority basis. Hayr Soorp explained that the Parish Council is inspecting the entire complex and that \$15,000 in the budget might limit the Parish Council's ability to make needed repairs. The motion was defeated.

Mr. Ouzoonian made a motion that prior to future elections, biographies of auditing committee nominees be included in the same manner as Parish Council nominees. Richard Saraydarian seconded and the motion carried.

Yz. Violet Kasparian suggested a committee be appointed to inventory church equipment and make sure they are in working order. Dr. Capan responded that the church has an inventory list of all our equipment that is updated every year and that any piece of equipment can break just prior to use.

There were no questions on Architectural & Facilities Management Committee (Albert Victoria commented that it is in effect non-existent), Building Maintenance, Church Grounds-Landscaping, ACEF Fund, Caspar M. Kasparian Memorial Fund, The Vahan Barsamian Memorial Fund, The George Shahinian Memorial Fund, the Martin "Sonny" Tashjian Memorial Fund or the Peter Ajemian Memorial Fund.

Mrs. Sonia Tashjian pointed out that on page 14, Exhibit C-Fund Balances, The Martin "Sonny" Tashjian Memorial Fund was not listed. Mrs. Hagopian apologized for the oversight.

There were no questions concerning the ACYOA Jrs., Avak Society, Sunday School or Family Auxiliary of St. Thomas.

On The Kirikian Armenian School report, Mary Ann Saraydarian added thanks to Mr. Hovhaness Baltaian for teaching chess after school and to Dr. Levon Capan for instructing the students on the music of our Badarak.

There were no questions about The Women's Guild, nor The Men's Club.

Chairman Nigohosian called for a motion specifying next year's Parish Assembly meetings. Shake Shahinian made a motion that the 1998 Parish Assembly meeting first session be held on the last Sunday in January and that the second session be held on the first Sunday in February. The motion was seconded by Richard Saraydarian and it carried.

Susan Shamamian commented that when our church was first established, it was called The Armenian Church of Bergen County and renamed St. Thomas several years later. This explains why next year's Parish Assembly is referred to as the 33rd Annual Parish Assembly.

Mrs. Virginia Victoria asked that the council reconsider replacing the accordion room dividers in the back classrooms as they are in deplorable condition.

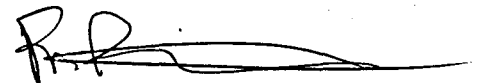
Chairman Nigohosian invited Mr. Hovsep Taktajian to announce the results of the election. He stated that 137 ballots were cast. The winners are: For Parish Council: Onnig Bozian, Mari Camcikyan, Leon Nigohosian, Richard Saraydarian, Madlen Setian, Jack Torosian, Alternate Gregory Amerikanian. For Nominating Committee: Maral Bezjian, Zivart Gulian, Krikor Kucukyan, Bertha Yigitkurt, Sirarpi Yildiz, Alternate Henry Hagopian. For Auditing Committee: Diana Bozian, Arpi Cankar, Alternate Manoog Camcikyan. For Parish Assembly Chairman: Leon Nigohosian. For Secretary: Martha Saraydarian.

Chairman Nigohosian congratulated the winners and thanked the Nominating Committee.

Dr. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Madlen Setian. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. with a closing prayer said by V. Rev. Fr. Dz. V. Anoushian.

Respectfully submitted,



V. Rev. Fr. Papken
Dz. V. Anoushian
Pastor and President
1997 Parish Assembly

Martha Saraydarian
Secretary 1997
Parish Assembly



Leon Nigohosian
Chairman 1997
Parish Assembly

