

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1983

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was held on Sunday, February 6, 1983, following a luncheon, in the Cultural Hall, with the Pastor, Reverend Mampre Kouzouian presiding. The opening prayer was given by Reverend Papken Maksoudian.

The meeting was called to order by Stephen Panosian, Chairman of the Parish Council, at 1:30 P. M. One hundred sixty (160) dues paying members were present and voted.

Mr. Donald Tellalian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election of the day's Tivan. The following were elected:

Mr. Charles Garabedian  
Miss Araxi Janjigian  
Mrs. June Piranian

Chairman of the Day  
Armenian Recording Secretary  
English Recording Secretary

Mr. Garabedian called for the reading of the Secretary's report for the 1982 Parish Assembly which was read by June Piranian, and the report was accepted as read. He also requested that individuals identify themselves when speaking or asking questions for the purpose of the record of the day.

The voting opened, and a recess was called for the members to cast their ballots. The meeting reconvened at 2:15 P.M., and the ballot box remained open until 3:00 P.M.

Those nominated for office were as follows:

Parish Council:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Ara Avakian          | 7. Gregory Krikorian   |
| 2. Edmond Danielson     | 8. Rose Minassian      |
| 3. Ardashes Der Ananian | 9. Keith Onanian       |
| 4. Paul Jamgochian      | 10. Stephen Panosian   |
| 5. Harry Kaprelian      | 11. Robert P. Proodian |
| 6. Nancy Kasarjian      | 12. Richard Surabian   |

Nominating Committee:

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Jack Bichajian    | 6. Thomas Stephanian    |
| 2. Ira Habeshian     | 7. Peter Talanian       |
| 3. Arax Najarian     | 8. Aetna Tashjian       |
| 4. Gerard Odabashian | 9. Donald Tellalian     |
| 5. Eugene Raphaelian | 10. Richard Zeytoonjian |

Auditing Committee:

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gerald Ajemian     | 4. Phyllis Martins      |
| 2. George D. Hagopian | 5. Mary Ann Soursourian |
| 3. Dale Haroutunian   | 6. Araxie Toomajian     |

Pastor's Report:

Reverend Kouzouian felt that inasmuch as the Annual Report had been previously read by everyone the reading of this report could be dispensed with. He did call for questions and/or comments. Mrs. Margaret Atamian asked for a small addition on Page 2-b, having to do with brunch served on the September 19th Family Reunion Sunday. She wanted the record to show that the brunch was prepared by the Women's Guild, and these words were to be added to the end of the sentence. Motion was made and seconded, and the report was accepted as written.

Parish Council's Activities and Financial Report:

It was decided that since everyone had previously read the Parish Council report, it would not be read at this meeting. Mr. Stephen Panosian, the Parish Council Chairman, called for any questions and/or corrections. There were none, but he apologized for the clerical error which necessitated Deran Zahigian's name to be pencilled in on the copy (Page 4-a). On motion made and seconded, the Parish Council report was accepted as written.

Proposed 1983 Budget:

Mr. George Hagopian came forward at this time to answer any questions in regard to the Budget. There followed various questions and corrections as follows:

On Page 5-b, Mrs. Margaret Atamian requested that the item under "Special Gifts" of Daughters of Vartan-Grand Council be further recognized specifically as the Haigouhi Otyag, and that a thank-you note be sent in this regard. Mrs. Arax Najarian got up to say that the check did come from the Grand Council of the Daughters of Vartan.

Also on Page 5-b, it was stated that the item of the Pan Sepastia Union Hall Gift amount should be corrected from \$200. to \$250.

At this time, even though the Parish Council's report had already been accepted, Miss Rose Tikijian pointed out a minor error to be corrected: "Annual Church Picnic" should read "1982" not "1983".

On Page 5-c (Disbursement Exhibit), Mrs. Vergin Mazmanian questioned the name of the "Soloist" under Miscellaneous Services, and was told the person wished to remain anonymous.

On motion made and seconded, the Proposed 1983 Budget was accepted as written.

At this time, Chairman Garabedian called for the reports from the various church organizations. The Trust Fund Chairman was called to speak, but apparently he was not present. Ms. Isabel Toomajian questioned the item of the 6 month certificate from the Arlington Five Cents Savings Bank in the amount of 8.85%, which she felt was low.

Ms. Z. Hollisian questioned the advisability of going into a fidelity fund as an investment, and it was stated that this was not an insured investment, among other reasons.

On the "Special Account" report (Page 5-g), Mrs. June Carlon questioned the Cultural Program item and felt that the \$1,000. difference between the Income and the Disbursements, was a loss. However, George Hagopian explained that Mr. Alex Manoogian donated \$2,500. to the church, also indicated in this report, thereby causing a gain rather than a loss.

Miss Dorothy Piranian questioned if Mr. Manoogian's donation would be an annual gift, and was told that it was hoped it would be.

Mr. Robert Borzakian, representing the A.C.Y.O.A., wanted to make a proposal for a special fund to be set up, and this was decided to be discussed later on under New Business.

Mr. Eugene Raphaelian spoke of the success of the Stewardship Program. The goal in 1982 was \$75,000., and in 1983, \$90,000. In 1982, there were 672 members plus 50 new members, making a total of 722. For 1983, there has already been pledged \$70,000. from 574 members. He urged those who haven't already done so to make their pledge, and he spoke of the importance of the "small contributor".

At this time, although all of the organization reports were not read in their entirety, on motion made and seconded, it was agreed to accept all the reports as written.

Ms. Elizabeth Roupenian requested that when the Annual Reports were being sent out for the following year, they be checked more carefully to be sure they were compiled correctly. Reverend Kouzouian explained that due to the number of people working on this project at the time, the pages got mixed up and left out of some of the books.

New Business:

Chairman Garabedian went on to speak about people who were unable to attend the annual meetings not being able to vote, and of the many complaints he had heard about this. It has been a long standing problem for those unable to attend which includes elderly, sick and infirm, people who are away from home, etc. He was hoping that a proposal could be presented to the Diocesan Assembly to allow these people to have the right to vote by proxy. He felt it was discriminatory to reject this right to these people. He suggested that we be the first parish to try to do something about this long time problem. There followed a lot of discussion on this, such as who these ballots should go to, etc. Mrs. Grace Kaprelian felt it was important to allow this

right to be given to these people, and suggested that if people who were going to be away let the church office know ahead of time, they should be able to get a ballot. Mr. John Demerjian wanted to know if this would apply to those in military service, and was told it would apply to anyone wherever they were. Mrs. Verghin Mazmanian wanted the record to show that she was in favor of the proposed idea.

Reverend Papken Maksoudian at this time spoke out very strongly with regard to the people who came to the annual meetings to vote but not to be present at the entire meeting. He felt it was just as important for them to be part of the meeting as it was to vote. Mr. Aetna Tashjian brought out two points here: 1. That the format previously was to have the general meeting before the voting, and, 2. That the candidates were introduced to the members before the voting took place. He was in favor of reinstating both of these procedures.

The subject of absentee balloting was renewed, and it was stated that is a very complex matter, and cannot be accomplished that easily. Chairman Garabedian pointed out that the methods of how it would be done were not the issue at this point. His intent was to put it in the form of a proposal to go to the Diocesan Assembly. Mrs. Grace Kaprelian wanted to add to her earlier thoughts on this subject that people were not always able to attend church meetings due to other commitments.

A vote on this was called for by Chairman Garabedian, and after a motion was made and seconded, it was

VOTED: To present a proposal to the Diocesan Assembly to allow certain people the right to vote by proxy in the annual church elections.

Reverend Kouzouian wanted to point out here that any change of timing in regard to the voting, either before or after the meeting, was up to the parishoners. It was also decided that those eligible for proxy voting, if passed, would be only the elderly, sick, or infirm.

Mr. Malcolm Piranian questioned what other parishes did about this problem, but no reply was given.

Mr. Dan Dorian felt it was futile to submit this proposal, and said it would not pass, as it was far too complicated and complex.

Mr. Dorian went on to state a proposal which he wished to submit to the Diocesan Assembly, which was as follows:

"Proposal to Amend Article 2, Section B of the By-Laws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese):

B. To elect a Nominating Committee composed of not less than three and not more than five members for a one year period.

The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person to fill each of the vacancies on the Parish Council Auditing Committee, subsequent Nominating Committee and Diocesan Delegates. Members of the Nominating Committee may enter their own names as candidates for office.

A list of such candidates shall be sent by the Nominating Committee to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the Annual Assembly.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The Nominating Committee together with the Auditing Committee shall govern the elections.

RATIONALE: The present election process creates an embarrassment to those who are not elected. The result is that some parishoners decline to run for any office. The proposed change should result in a more efficient productive election."

Mr. Dorian went on to say he felt this would make for a quicker and more efficient meeting. The Nominating Committee would have already picked out and interviewed the people who they felt were the most capable for the positions open.

Mr. John Soursourian got up to say he knew what a difficult job the Nominating Committees had trying to get candidates --it was not at all easy--, but he did not feel it was fair not to have alternatives. He did want to go on record for giving much credit to the Nominating Committee for the tremendous job they have to do.

Mrs. Arshalous Bogosian wanted to say that lack of transportation should be a consideration for the proxy vote issue, but this was rejected, as well as for those people who were out of town at the time.

Mr. John Soursourian again stated that this question of proxy voting has come up before, and there are too many 'ifs' regarding requirements, etc, and he felt it would not pass, and we should continue as stated in the By-Laws.

The motion was repeated at this time, and the Parish Council will draft a proposal for submission to the Diocesan Assembly on proxy voting.

Discussion took place at this time regarding Mr. Dorian's proposal. Deran Zahigian felt that this plan places too much power with the Nominating Committee, and it would enable them to elect anyone they themselves chose. He was very much opposed to his system. Mrs. Penny Jamgochian went along with the idea to trust the Nominating Committee in picking the right people but felt the members should still have choices. Everyone felt there should still be nominations from the floor. Ms. Helen Mejian stated this Nominating Committee proposal would make for a "no contest" election. On motion made and seconded, it was agreed to reject this proposal.

Back again to absentee balloting, Mr. Arthur Panosian wanted to state that out of 788 membership, only 15% of the people voted. He felt that absentee or proxy voting would encourage people to vote, thereby raising the percentage.

At this time, Mr. Borzakian's proposal to set up a Special Fund for the A.C.Y.O.A. was brought forth again. He wishes to propose that profits obtained from the annual banquet of the A.C.Y.O.A. be allowed to go into this Fund. Also, that any donations to the Parish Council from the senior and junior groups instead go into this Fund, so that it will give them

some "input" to enable them to create interest for other young people to join these chapters. At this time, the Parish Council oversees the expenditures of these chapters. Mr. John Sour-sourian wanted to know what they planned to spend this Fund money on, and it was restated that it would be spent for whatever they felt they needed to do to create the aforementioned interest to the young people. Miss Dorothy Piranian requested hearing from the newly appointed Youth Director to learn of his plans. Mr. Soursourian felt the previous methods of the Parish Council handling the expenditures decisions should be continued and maintained. Mrs. June Carlon suggested to Mr. Borzakian that the chapters should plan more functions to raise more money, and Mrs. Louise Panosian suggested adopting a major goal, such as a scholarship fund or some equivalent idea.

Mr. Borzakian stated his proposal formally: "That a Special A.C.Y.O.A. Fund be set up in order to meet challenges and to spark the interest of the youth in our parish". On motion made and seconded, it was decided to reject this proposal (19-15 against). Mr. Soursourian suggested that the proposal be submitted to the Parish Council for further study. Reverend Kouzouian wanted to make recognition of Robert Borzakian's intent and spirit, which he said he felt was close to everyone's heart, and hoped it would be an indication for the Parish Council to help the young people as much as possible. Reverend Kouzouian further gave credit to the Parish Council for the many ways they have assisted and are always assisting the A.C.Y.O.A. and that they will continue in the future.

Chairman Garabedian then thanked the Parish Council and also the Senior Women's Guild for the luncheon that was prepared by the ladies, and also all the people who had attended the meeting.

Miss Dorothy Piranian wanted to know if the Youth Director's report would be part of the Annual Report next year, and she was told it would be.

Mr. Archie Kolligian wanted to know why the hall was so cold for the meeting. Being a very cold day, he felt very strongly that the hall should have been warmer than it was.

Mr. John Soursourian wanted a proposal to the Assembly that in the future, every organization chairman (or representative) review their report. He did not want the individual reports to be passed over, and felt that each one should be gone over in detail within the Annual meeting. Miss Dorothy Piranian suggested that each chairman be present to answer any questions raised, even if the report was not read in its entirety. Chairman Garabedian stated that any and all questions could have been answered at this meeting if they had come up. Chairman Garabedian asked if there were any other questions or suggestions but none were submitted.

Miss Dorothy Piranian wanted to extend special commendation to the Cultural Program for a lot of hard work and a job well done.

Reverend Mamprè Kouzouian wanted to express his thanks and personal appreciation to the devotion of the Parish Council, as well as each organization in the parish, and to their chair people as well. He went on to thank the various divans and memberships, the delegates to the Diocesan Assembly, and he gave special thanks to Reverend Papken Maksoudian and Hyr Oshagan, as well as everyone on the altar. He said how much he would miss Mr. Levon Terzian who had served as deacon for so many, many years, and who recently passed away. He thanked the choir, the organist, the Sunday School teachers, and the Armenian School teachers, standing committee members, Stewardship Committee and chairman, and all the dedicated women who do so much work for the church preparing all the dinners, and other functions they handle, and finally for the Chairman of the Day of the meeting, and the secretaries. He gave special thanks to the church secretary, Rose Mamishian, all the volunteers who come to the church office to help out, as well as Bedros Arakelian, and Araxie Janjigian, the Armenian language secretary of the Parish Assembly meetings.

A suggestion was made to use a tape recorder to aid the secretaries taking the minutes at the Parish Assembly meetings, but it was not thought to be a practical idea.

Mr. Stephen Panosian extended his thanks to the Chairman of the Day, Charles Garabedian. Mr. Garabedian went on to say how happy he was to be at the meeting, and

urged members to speak up at these meetings and not hold back with their questions and ideas.

He thanked Reverend Kouzouian for his wonderful leadership in our church.

Mr. Richard Abdalian, the newly appointed Youth Director was introduced to the membership.

Reverend Kouzouian then gave thanks to the outgoing members of the Parish Council, Paul Jamgotchian, especially Mr. Ardashes Der Ananian, and Mrs. Barbara Sahagian. He then congratulated the newly elected officers, who were as follows:

Parish Council:

1. Nancy Kasarjian
2. Gregory Krikorian
3. Rose Minassian
4. Stephen Panosian
5. Robert P. Proodian
6. Richard Surabian

Alternate: Ardashes Der Ananian

Nominating Committee:

1. Jack Bichajian
2. Ira Habeshian
3. Eugene Raphaelian
4. Peter Talanian
5. Donald Tellalian

Auditing Committee:

1. Gerald Ajemian
2. George D. Hagopian
3. Mary Ann Soursourian

At this time, Reverend Kouzouian gave the closing prayer, and with no further business to come before the meeting, on motion made and seconded, the meeting was voted to adjourn at 3:55 P. M.

*Charles P. Karabedean*  
Chairman

Respectfully submitted,

*Rev. M. A. Kouzouian*  
Pastor

*June M. Piranian*

June M. Piranian  
English Recording Secretary