

HOLY TRINITY ARMENIAN CHURCH OF GREATER BOSTON

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
Sunday, February 3, 1991

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was held on Sunday, February 3, 1991, following Church Services, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall.

The Assembly was called to order by Albert Zouranjian, Chairman of the Parish Council, who welcomed and thanked the parishioners for their participation.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Reverend Father Mampre A. Kouzouian, Pastor, who asked those present to join with him in reciting the prayer.

Dr. Paul Barsam, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for the day's Tivan as follows:

Chairman - Dr. Michael Kolligian, Jr. and Robert Proodian  
Recording Secretary - Carol Krikorian

Mr. Proodian declined his nomination. Additional nominations for both offices were asked from the floor. There being no further nominations, a Motion was made and seconded that Dr. Kolligian be elected Chairman of the Assembly. MOTION PASSED. A motion was made and seconded that Carol Krikorian serve as Recording Secretary for the Assembly. MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Kolligian, in addressing the Assembly, thanked the Nominating Committee and the Assembly for electing him Chairman. He stated that, as in past years, the reading of each report would be suspended unless a formal request was made otherwise. There being none, the Assembly proceeded.

MINUTES OF 1990 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Seta A. Buchter, Sunday School Superintendent, requested that on page 2c, under A.C.Y.O.A. Srs. Report, the last sentence be amended to read ", the A.C.Y.O.A. membership has increased", leaving out "as well as the Sunday School membership", since the Youth Director was not responsible for the increase in Sunday School membership. Seta stated that the comment made was that because the Sunday School membership is increasing, the ACYOA, Jr's. membership should increase in the years ahead. Corrected as noted.

Dorothea Piranian referred to page 2e and requested that paragraph 6 be reworded to read "Dorothea Piranian suggested that the new position of Executive Director be reviewed in the future as to its need." Reword as corrected. Dr. Kolligian pointed out as a matter of information that this position had been approved in the Budget and that review of this position would be by the Parish Council and Pastor.

A motion was made and seconded to approved the Minutes as corrected. MOTION PASSED.

Dr. Barsam, the Nominating Committee Chairman, now called upon the nominees for elective offices as put forward by the Nominating Committee to come forward to

the Assembly. It was noted that for Parish Council, Michael Markarian replaced Charles Garabedian of Andover, who declined the nomination after sample ballots were mailed out to members. Mr. Markarian's name was listed on the day's ballot.

Parish Council

(6 to be elected)

George Baghdasarian	Michael S. Markarian
Sarkis Boghosian, Jr. *	Catherine Minassian *
Donna L. Goolkasian *	Dorothea Piranian
Violet Goshdigian *	Debra Lee Stevens
Aram Hintlian, Jr. *	Robert Takvorian
James Kalustian	Albert Zouranjian *

Nominating Committee

(5 to be elected)

Gerald Ajemian	Gregory Hintlian
Dr. Paul C. Barsam *	Gerald Odabashian
John Bichajian, Jr.	Robert P. Proodian *
Daniel K. Dorian	Aetna Tashjian
George W. Haroutunian	Araxie Toomajian

Auditing Committee

(3 to be elected)

George D. Hagopian *	Barbara L. Sahagian
Dale Haroutunian	MaryAnn Soursourian *
George K. Omartian	Peter S. Talanian

\* Incumbent

There being no further nominations from the floor for Parish Council, Nominating or Auditing Committees, nominations were closed. Dr. Kolligian thanked Dr. Barsam. Dr. Kolligian stated that all dues-paying members would receive an identification card with their ballots which would enable them to make comments from the floor.

Following an interval for voting purposes, the Annual Assembly was again called to order by the Chairman who also announced that the Ballot Box would remain open until 2:30 p.m.

Pastor's Annual Report for 1990:

Father Mampre reviewed his report in English and Armenian. He wished to verbally express his appreciation to Father Papken Maksoudian, Pastor Emeritus, and Father Oshagan Minassian, Choir Director, who assist him in his ministry, to the Diocesan Delegates, the Chairman of the Parish Council, members of the Parish Council, Board members of our Trust Fund, teachers and staff of our Armenian and Sunday Schools, members of our Choir, altar servers, organist, auxiliary organization chairmen and members, all the volunteers who come and offer their services at various Church functions and to the volunteers who come and help in the Church Office. He expressed his gratitude to all for helping to carry out our mission in the Parish. Father Mampre then asked if there were any comments or questions.

George Omartian thanked him for including the overview of the sacraments that he had requested at last year's Annual Assembly. He commented that for the years

1978 through 1990, there were 252 baptisms, 192 weddings and 483 funerals, noting, unfortunately, that there were twice as many funerals as baptisms. His concern was that something was happening to our Church population, based on these figures: Of those that were born since 1985, 57% were in Sunday School, dropping down to 17% in Armenian School, 40% in ACYOA Jrs., and 21% in ACYOA Srs. Der Hayr pointed out that in using these figures, one has to remember that these children do not start Sunday School and Armenian School until they are 4 or 5 years old, so they are not a true indicator. He also stated that in regard to funerals, the picture is the same in all Armenian communities: there are always more deaths than weddings and births.

Concerning the stained glass windows, Armen Dilan questioned if the windows were of Armenian composition and why weren't Armenian artists used. The Pastor explained that the Parish Council and a group of experts researched and put together a list of artists who make stained glass windows. After careful deliberation, Dr. Sandon of Sandon Studios was selected because of his work with other Armenian churches, our satisfaction with his previous artistic work, and his fame. Father Mampre stated that we have perhaps one of the most beautiful stained glass windows, and that they are reproductions of illuminations of ancient Armenian manuscripts and are being faithfully reproduced - theologically, historically and artistically by Sandon Studios. He also noted that Sandon Studios had recently been commissioned by the White House to produce stained glass windows for the Camp David Chapel. Father Mampre added that Dr. Sandon is a great artist and had been very cooperative.

On page 3h, Seta Buchter stated that the figure for enrollment in the A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors for 1990-1991, should read "31" instead of "28". Correction noted.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Pastor's Report as corrected.  
MOTION PASSED.

#### Parish Council Activities and Financial Report for 1990:

Dr. Kolligian called upon Albert Zouranjian, Chairman of the Parish Council, and William Martin, Assistant Treasurer, to address any questions regarding this report.

Dorothea Piranian requested that we list the names of the clergy receiving stipends and their position. She also requested we list the positions as well as the names of all people receiving salaries from the Church for the benefit of new members and for those who might not recognize some of the names. Der Hayr stated that this can be done.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Parish Council Report. MOTION PASSED.

#### Proposed Budget for 1991:

Dr. Barsam noted that the proposed clergy stipend for 1991 is the same as it was for 1990. In light of the fact that the cost of living continues to increase and the responsibilities on the clergy continue to increase, Dr. Barsam suggested that the Parish Council make an amendment to implement an increase to the clergy stipend. Al Zouranjian stated that there was a freeze on all salaries and that there will be a review June 1, 1991. If the Church is in good financial shape, a cost of living increase will be addressed at that time. Dr. Kolligian noted that it was an encouraging sign that the Church administration is trying to make

overhead and expenses remain within our budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Proposed Budget for 1991. MOTION PASSED.

### Stewardship Program

Dr. Kolligian called on Nancy Hintlian who is chairing the 1991 Stewardship Program. Nancy stated that the Stewardship Program has been successful for nine years and pointed out the increase from \$96,000 in 1986 to \$108,00 in 1990. However, she noted that the number of participants in the program has not really increased from year to year. She thanked those who have made the Stewardship Program a success; namely, the parishioners who participate, the valuable Stewardship Committee, Rose Kolligian and her Family for the continued use of Distributor Corporation for the telethon, and, under the direction of Nancy Kasarjian, the Church Office staff who provides the statistics, typing, notification of meetings and special activities. She mentioned how people draw closer to the Church when times are bad and sees the 1990's as a light at the end of the tunnel.

One of the things she would like to do is identify the young people who have not had the opportunity to participate in the Stewardship Program, those young adults who might still be living at home and those that have moved away. She asked that parishioners call the Church Office and let them know of any young adults that we can ask to be stewards of the Church. She mentioned that she has added people from her own family to the list. She would like to expand the program without drawing on the same people and is looking for ways to generate income.

Of the 801 participants in the Stewardship Program, Nancy stated that there are 233 people who contribute under \$100, those being mainly senior citizens and those on a fixed income. John Soursourian asked for the actual number of members that we have on record on the Annual Report that goes to the Diocese. Are we identifying between real members and contributing members. He is concerned that we are paying for more than our share. It was stated that the first \$37.00 of Stewardship goes to the Diocese. Father Mampre stated that we are covering some senior citizens, but it was a negligible number. John thanked the Stewardship Committee for the wonderful job they are doing. George Omartian asked if our membership is 800 and what constitutes membership. Der Hayr responded by saying that the By-Laws define membership as those who are baptized, confirmed and abide by the teachings of the Armenian Church. To participate in Stewardship, you do not have to be baptized or confirmed in the Armenian Church. Father Mampre stated that as of the end of 1990, there were 801 participants in the Stewardship Program, and it is possible, as in past years, that we still may have members paying their 1990 dues in October of this year. Mr. Omartian voiced his concern that if membership remains at 800, we are standing still and are stagnating backwards. He would like to see that number grow, because if Stewardship grows, so will Sunday School, Armenian School, and A.C.Y.O.A.

Nancy stated that with the 1200 families that receive the Dajar, there is really no easy way to identify potential stewards from that list. Louise Panosian added that a number of the people receiving Dajar are members of other churches. Nancy mentioned that the Parish Council was working on a form to send out asking for information, but there was a concern about invasion of privacy; however, she would like to see us go forward with this idea.

Dorothea Piranian asked if we would ever consider sending the Dajar to just the members of our Church. Al Zouranjian responded by saying that we use the Dajar

for public relations, informing everyone of our bazaars, picnics, etc. It was pointed out that if you contribute to the Stewardship Program, you will receive the Dajar. For those who are not members, we have been asking for a separate contribution. Al remarked that we should be proud of the Dajar. Dorothea Piranian stated that we do send separate flyers for our functions and that the Dajar should be kept for members. Robert Goshgarian suggested that the mailing date for the Dajar be moved up in light of the fact that on occasion, it arrives after various functions we are advertising have taken place. Father Mampre stated that the February issue of Dajar had been mailed out the previous Friday, February 1st, and that some people probably will not get it for two weeks. There are some circumstances beyond our control: the printer may have a lot of work to do and we do not have priority; the bindery may take two or three days; and then there is the Post Office who may not deliver up to two weeks. The Pastor also mentioned that the Dajar covers various types of information. There are contributors that want to see their names listed, such as "in lieu of flowers" contributions which are not from only dues-paying members, but from other people as well. The Dajar also includes informative articles as well as messages from the Catholicos and the Primate.

John Soursourian remarked that of the 800 members, there are only about 125 attending the Annual Assembly who are interested in the administration of the Church, and that we have to work on getting the others to attend.

Dr. Kolligian thanked Nancy for a nice presentation.

#### Trust Fund Report

Dr. Kolligian asked George D. Hagopian to present the Trust Fund Report. George stated that there was an error in the report. On page 6a, a contribution of \$500 from Dr. Martin T. and Anna T. Alexander should be included. He also added that last year's report had requested the listing of the market value of securities of the previous year (page 6b). This was not included, but George stated that the market value based on the same securities was \$172,812.50 last year. This was down \$3,507.00. As of Friday, February 1st, they were \$182,885.00. They have come back in value and are quality stocks paying good dividends. In 1990, six new funds were set up. George said that \$115,000 was turned over to the Church in 1990, and that \$130,000 will be turned over in 1991. The Fund continues to increase and everyone continues to contribute to it. The Trust Fund Board is quite proud of it.

Dr. Kolligian stated that we owe a debt of gratitude to George Hagopian. John Soursourian added that we should give a big hand to the Trust Fund Board because this is all done at no cost to the parishioners. He stated that a bank or brokerage firm would charge us a lot of money for the service that the Board provides.

#### Auxiliary Reports

At this point, Dr. Kolligian stated that we would wait on motions to approve the auxiliary reports until all reports were covered.

#### Senior Women's Guild

The Pastor made note at this point that the Senior Women's Guild would be celebrating the 80th anniversary of their founding this year, and that there would be a celebration during the year. He remarked that they have been serving the Armenian community for 80 years.

### Women's Guild

Violet Goshdigian, Chairman of the Women's Guild, asked for a correction of their report. On page B1, under advisors, the name "Rose Tashjian" should be changed to "Rose Tikijian". Corrected as noted.

### Sunday School

Seta A. Buchter, Sunday School Superintendent, addressed the Assembly, stating that the Sunday School is an active and vital organization that meets weekly, downstairs in the Peter Adamian Hall. It is a cooperative effort among teachers, parents, students, the Parish Council, the Church community and herself. There is currently an all inclusive staff of 33 people which includes teachers, assistants, substitutes and support staff. There is also a class parent for each grade. She mentioned that the Sunday School is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful group of dedicated parishioners as teachers and staff members and involved parents. She noted that half of the staff are non-parents, and that there will be a need of teachers in the fall. She urged those assembled for their help or, if they knew of anyone who could, to contact her at the Church Office. Seta stressed that without a teaching staff, there can be no Sunday School.

Stating that there are 100 children enrolled in the Sunday School this year, she encouraged those present to bring their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews to Sunday School so that they may learn about their religion and culture. She stressed the importance of role models for our children who learn from watching others, especially their parents and, if you want your child to be brought up within the Armenian Church, you too must be involved. Church should be a way of life for the entire family, not something children are dropped at on sporadic Sunday mornings.

She thanked the Parish Council and the Church community for their financial support, stating that all of the Sunday School's monetary needs are met through the Church budget, including curriculum books for each of the students. Partial scholarships are also awarded to St. Vartan Camp and St. Nersess Summer Study Seminars to students wishing to attend, as a way of encouraging participation. She mentioned that, for some, these scholarships do make a difference in whether they participate or not. In 1990, a record number of 14 students attended Camp Vartan. Seta feels that these two programs are exceptionally worthwhile ones and should be encouraged and supported. She ended by saying that the Sunday School and Armenian School are the only Church-affiliated organizations that do not require any monetary contributions from its members, and that finances should not be a reason for any child not to be enrolled in the Sunday School.

Arthur Panosian requested a financial accounting for the Sunday School. Seta stated that the expenditure for the Sunday School for 1990 was \$3,500, excluding furniture. Mr. Panosian asked that the financial accounting for the Sunday School be placed at the end of its report where it would be easier for people to visualize instead of in the Church's financial report. George D. Hagopian clarified that years ago, it was decided to make the Sunday School budget a part a of the Church budget, thereby eliminating the need for the Sunday School to have a separate account and a treasurer. This way, the Church pays for everything and the Sunday School need not have to worry about money. It was stated that the \$3,500 covers the cost of books, petty cash, and whatever supplies and overhead

expenses they may need for any ongoing functions. Seta stated that the Parish Council has always come through to support the Sunday School. Dr. Kolligian asked Arthur if he wanted to make a motion regarding the placement of the Sunday School finances. He responded by stating that it was a request, but if nothing is done in next year's report, he would then make a motion. Dr. Kolligian concluded that the addition of the financial exhibit to the Sunday School should suffice.

#### Armenian School

Araxie Janjigian of the Armenian School was happy to announce the Armenian School was at its best with 15 students for the year 1990, and stated that, since January, they have expanded to 17. She emphasized that they are accomplishing quite a bit by how they are teaching as opposed to what they are teaching. She compared it to a crash course, considering they only have 45 minutes a week. They are giving the students the tools to do it themselves. She ended by saying that the teachers ask for nothing and that their hearts and souls are into it.

Dr. Kolligian thank Araxie and remarked that she had done a noble job.

#### A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors

Dr. Kolligian asked Ben Saraydarian, our Youth Director, to come forward and address the Assembly. With regard to the Seniors, Ben described them as a very strong, but small core group and that he is working on expanding membership by trying to get more to be involved. He mentioned that a night out to "Catch a Rising Star" in Cambridge, brought new faces and that he is trying to come up with ideas that would attract new members.

#### A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors

Ben stated that the Juniors are a small group of active people and he can sense that the excitement is starting to grow, which he hopes will encourage more to join. He talked of a recent Sports Weekend in New Jersey, where, with some members of Chelmsford's St. Vartanantz A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors, they won the first-place trophy in basketball. He feels that with this new excitement, things will begin happening. He is hoping to institute a consistency program, where he will be able to get them to come to Church regularly for their activities. A question was raised as to whether there was an active league in area Churches. Ben stated that there was no league as such, but that the A.C.Y.O.A. does compete through Sports Weekends and through different tournaments. Ben mentioned trying to plan a visit from the Juniors of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs Bayside, NY, after Lent, including St. James of Watertown. Ben explained that his overall intentions are to expand membership, have them meet Armenians from other parishes, and to make the A.C.Y.O.A. interesting for them.

Dr. Kolligian thanked Ben very much for his presentation.

Robert Goshgarian thanked whoever was responsible for repositioning the A.C.Y.O.A. reports in this year's Annual Report as he had requested at last year's meeting.

Since there were no comments or questions regarding the reports for the Cultural Committee, Erevan Choral Society, Trinity Men's Union, Choir, 1000 Club, Trinity Couples Club or the Lynn, Salem, Peabody Women's Auxiliary, a motion was made and seconded to accept all the auxiliary reports as printed and corrected. MOTION PASSED.

### Proposals for Diocesan Assembly

Dr. Kolligian asked if there were any points to bring forth for consideration for the upcoming Diocesan Assembly that will be held in May. A question was asked if the Parish Council had offered any proposals for those assembled to consider. There were none. It was then asked if perhaps one of the Diocesan Delegates present could give an update to the Assembly present as to the status of things in the Diocese since the last report. Dr. Kolligian asked if it would not be more appropriate to address this after the Diocesan Assembly to which Father Mampre agreed.

### Old or New Business

Dorothea Piranian stated that she cannot call the Office until 5:00 p.m., and asked if it were not possible for the Church Office staff to stagger the work hours from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., instead of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. As Chairman of the Parish Council, Al Zouranjian stated that he would bring it up and see what he could do.

### Closing Remarks

Father Mampre thanked the Chairman of the Day for very capably running the meeting.

He also stated that he wished to thank Dr. Kolligian for chairing the Trust Fund Board, and expressed his thanks as well to George D. Hagopian and the rest of the Board members. With regard to finances, Father Mampre remarked on a conversation held outside of Holy Trinity, where the comment was made that Holy Trinity Church is the Church of the future, meaning that the Trust Fund is the direction in which all the churches in the Diocese should go. When there are financial problems, there is financial backing available there for the Church. Father Mampre thanked the Board for its leadership.

The Pastor also thanked the Secretary of the Day, Carol Krikorian, who he mentioned was also secretary at the Church Office. He wished to thank, also, all of the Office Staff: Nancy Kasarjian, Rose Mamishian, Seta Buchter, Harvinder Jassal, Ben Saraydarian, and Ara Dermovses. He expressed his appreciation, as well, to Parish Council Chairman, Al Zouranjian, and the members of the Council.

### Election Results

Dr. Kolligian stated that when the results of the election were to be announced, that there would be no winners and losers. That whether they had garnered enough votes to win was incidental and that they all deserved our applause.

The results of the election were announced to the Assembly by Dr. Paul Barsam as follows:

#### Parish Council:

Sarkis Boghosian, Jr. *	Violet Goshdigian *	(134 Ballots cast)
Aram Hintlian, Jr. *	Donna Goolkasian *	
Albert Zouranjian *	Catherine Minassian *	
James Kalustian - Alternate		

#### Nominating Committee:

George W. Haroutunian *	Gregory Hintlian	(134 Ballots cast)
Dr. Paul Barsam *	Aetna Tashjian	
Robert Proodian		



Auditing Committee:

George D. Hagopian \*  
MaryAnn Soursourian \*

Peter S. Talanian

(134 Ballots cast)

\* Incumbent

Father Mampre congratulated all the newly-elected members of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. He noted that all six members of the Parish Council elected were incumbents. He thanked Dr. Barsam and his committee.

Benediction was offered by Father Mampre.

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was declared adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Krikorian  
Recording Secretary