Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly Sunday, February 8, 1998

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston was held on Sunday, February 8, 1998 in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, following Church Services.

The opening prayer was offered by Reverend Father Mampre A. Kouzouian, Pastor, who asked those present to join with him in reciting the prayer in both English and Armenian.

The Assembly was called to order by George W. Haroutunian, Chairman of the Parish Council, at 1:00 p.m.. William Martin, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate for the day's Tivan as follows:

Chairman: Eugene Raphaelian and Albert Zouranjian

Further nominations were asked from the floor. Eugene Raphaelian was not present and since there were no further nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded that Albert Zouranjian be elected as Chairman of the Assembly. MOTION PASSED.

William Martin offered the name of Catherine Minassian as Recording Secretary for the Assembly and asked for additional candidates from the floor. Since there were no further nominations from the floor, a Motion was made and seconded that Catherine Minassian be elected as Recording Secretary. MOTION PASSED.

The meeting was turned over to Albert Zouranjian, who thanked those present for electing him and Cathy Minassian, as Chairman and Secretary for the day's Assembly. It was noted that a quorum was present to hold elections and the business outlined in the Agenda. Once again William Martin came forward to announce the candidates for Parish Council. Each candidate present was asked to come forward and was introduced to the Assembly.

The nominees for Parish Council (five to be elected) were as follows:

Kevork Atiniz Ida Kolligian
Arthur Avakian* Joseph Lousararian
John Bichajian, Jr. Michael Markarian*
Dale Haroutunian Edward Panjian
Gary Kalajian* Kaspar Torosjan

* indicates incumbent

Any ballot having more or less than five votes would be invalid. Additional names for nominations for Parish Council were entertained. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close nominations for Parish Council. MOTION PASSED.

The nominees for Auditing Committee (one to be elected) were as follows:

George D. Hagopian Dana Martins Hanify

Any ballot having more or less than one vote would be considered invalid. There being no further nominations a motion was made and seconded to accept the above names as candidates. MOTION PASSED.

The nominees for Nominating Committee (five to be elected) were as follows:

Ruth Boghosian * Eugene Raphaelian
Edmond Danielson * MaryAnn Soursourian
Aram Hintlian, Jr. Robert Takvorian
James Kalustian Gregory Tashjian
William Martin * Donald Tellalian

* indicates incumbent

Any ballots having more or less than five votes would be considered invalid. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded to accept the above names as candidates. MOTION PASSED.

The Chairman then entertained a motion to accept the minutes of the 1997 Parish Assembly as printed in the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and the MOTION PASSED.

There was a short recess in the proceedings for the purposes of voting. At 1:35 p.m. the Chairman reconvened the meeting. The Ballot Box remained open until 2:30 p.m.

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 1997

Father Mampre Kouzouian summarized his report thanking God for the opportunity of serving Him and thanking the parishioners for their prayers and support during the past year. The Pastor noted the Church services that were conducted during the year and thanked all the visiting clergyman during the year, the Very Reverend Father Oshagan Minassian, our Choir Director, our Deacons, Altar Servers, and Choir members who attend Church Services every Sunday. He noted the sacraments and services that were performed in 1997, as well as counseling services, pastoral visitations, and meetings that he attended. Father Mampre also spoke of the cultural and educational programs that took place and noted the Bible Study program conducted by Gregory Tashjian on Sunday mornings. Our parish Armenian and Sunday Schools are active and he expressed appreciation to Seta Buchter, Sunday School Superintendent and all the Sunday School teachers. The teachers of the Armenian School, Aida Diloyan and David Elizian were thanked as well as Diran Zahigian, treasurer of the Armenian School. Assistance to Armenia, special events, and donations to the Church Trust Fund were also highlighted. Father Mampre concluded his remarks by expressing his appreciation to the Church office staff and volunteers who come to help with projects during the year. He thanked the Parish Council Chairman and members for their dedication and leadership.

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT FOR 1997

George Haroutunian, Chairman of the Parish Council, reviewed the parish activities for 1997. He thanked parishioners for their support and Father Mampre for his guidance. He noted one of the major projects of the year was the repair of the church dome exterior. A Special Parish Assembly was held on Sunday, May 18, 1997 and gave the Council permission to proceed with the project at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. He thanked the special Dome Repair Committee under the guidance of Donald Tellalian and Aetna Tashjian for their assistance with the project.

In addition to the various events that were outlined in the 1997 Activities Report, George Haroutunian noted some major events coming up this year. These events include the visit of His Holiness Karekin I to the Annual Diocesan Assembly, followed by a visit to the Boston area and our Church on May 15-16, 1998. Another event will be the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Ordination of Father Mampre Kouzouian on June 6-7, 1998. He noted that the 4th Annual Trinity Golf Tournament is planned for Monday, June 22, 1998 and the proceeds from this event go towards the loan payment for the renovation of the Parish House.

A question was received from the floor regarding the lower number of weddings for 1997 and whether the Parish Council had a plan to attract young families to our Church. The Parish Council Chairman agreed that this was a valid and important point for the leadership of the Church to consider. There has been some activity to try to attract back young adults that have gone through our Sunday School and now are out of college and living in the area. It was also mentioned that our current Sunday School has 128 students registered and is a healthy sign. Father Mampre noted that if you look back at reports published in our Diocese in the late 1930's and early 1940's the same concerns were expressed. Our Diocese has now reached its 100th year. Changes do not come fast, and it will not come from 1 or 2 parishes, but rather Diocese-wide and our Christian community-wide. A recommendation was made to have the Parish Council develop plans and report on their outcome at the next Assembly.

Gregory Hintlian, Treasurer of the Parish Council was called on to give the Parish Financial Report for 1997. A question was raised from the floor in regard to the Dome Repair and if the 1998 Budget included the cost for repair and repainting of sanctuary and dome interior. It was noted that the Dome Repair Committee felt that we should wait approximately one year to insure that no leakage would reappear after the repair work. Therefore, either a Special Parish Assembly or the 1999 Parish Assembly will include a budget for performing the work.

There being no further questions for the Treasurer about the Financial Report of the Parish, a motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report and 1998 Budget as printed in the Annual Report. MOTION PASSED

Al Zouranjian, Chairman of the Day, continued the review of the Church Organizations Reports. This year for the first time a report from the Diocesan Assembly written by Aram Hintlian, Diocesan Delegate, was included in the Parish Annual Report. It was noted, from the floor, that parishioners appreciate Aram's report because he presents information on the Diocesan Assembly in a clear manner.

Next, George Hagopian, a Trustee of the Holy Trinity Trust Fund, presented their Financial Report. The parish receives 32 percent of its operating budget from the proceeds of the Trust Fund interest income. Stock funds that can provide a steady monthly income are needed, so investments are conservative. It was noted that most mutual funds do not provide a monthly income. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Trust Fund Report. MOTION PASSED.

ORGANIZATIONS' REPORTS

Representatives from the various Church organizations were present to answer any questions in regard to their reports included in the Parish Annual Report. Helen Donabedian of the Senior Women's Guild noted that the group is looking for new members to join them to keep the organization going. Seta Buchter, Superintendent of the Sunday School and Advisor to the ACYOA Juniors invited the parish to come and support the Juniors for their upcoming Poon Paragentan celebration. Aida Diloyan, teacher in the Armenian School gave an update on the Hantes that was held and the program that is at Holy Trinity for teaching the Armenian language to our children. It was noted that our Choir is hosting the Annual Assembly of the Armenian Church Choirs of America in November 1998.

NEW BUSINESS

On behalf of the Parish Council, Treasurer Greg Hintlian made a motion to increase the annual membership dues to \$100 per member, which will include Senior Citizens and full-time students. He gave a breakdown based on the Diocesan formula explaining that the current dues requirement of \$75 for regular members and \$50 for Senior Citizens and full-time students does not cover the Diocesan assessment. The Parish has to cover the remainder of the cost. After discussion, the motion was seconded. A vote was held and the MOTION PASSED. The motion will be in effect for the 1999 membership/Stewardship year.

The Chairman then called upon Gerry Ajemian who has been appointed as the Northern New England Region Chairman of the Centennial Endowment Committee. This committee has been established on the 100th Anniversary of the Diocese of the Armenian Church in America. Mr. Ajemian read from the Mission Statement for the Centennial Endowment Committee and spoke briefly about the fund raising that would be going on in the coming months.

ELECTION RESULTS

Bill Martin announced that the ballots cast had been tallied and the results of the election were as follows:

Parish Council (130 ballots cast, 2 void)

- 1. Gary Kalajian 114
- 2. John Bichajian, Jr. 99
- 3. Ida Kolligian 89
- 4. Arthur Avakian 83
- 5. Kevork Atiniz 79
- Alternate: Michael Markarian 64

Auditing Committee (130 ballots cast, 4 void)

George D. Hagopian 87

Nominating Committee (130 ballots cast, 4 void)

- 1. Aram Hintlian, Jr. 104
- 4. Donald Tellalian 80
- 2. William Martin 94
- 5. James Kalustian 70
- 3. Ruth Boghosian 83

Father Mampre thanked the Nominating Committee for their work in handling the elections. He also thanked Al Zouranjian for serving as Chairman of the Day and Cathy Minassian for serving as Recording Secretary. A motion was made and seconded at 3:00 p.m. that the 1998 Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston be adjourned. MOTION PASSED. The benediction was offered by Reverend Father Mampre Kouzouian, Pastor.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Minassian Recording Secretary Albert Zouranjian

Chairman

Rev. Father Mampre A. Kouzouian

Parish Priest