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January 26, 1975

The annual Parish Assembly meeting of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church took place on Sunday, January 26, 1975, in the church dining hall at 1:30 p.m.. After the invocation by Der Levon Arakelian, the assembly elected Mr. Martin Moomjian as chairman of the day. The names of all paid-up members were read and verified; thirty-nine members were present. Mrs. Theresa Harabedian was then elected secretary of the day. The minutes of last year's annual meeting was read by Miss Nicky Taralian, and was accepted as read. The minutes of a previous special meeting held on Sunday, July 21, 1974, was read by Mr. Ralph Trapasso, and accepted as read.

Der Hayr's annual report was read, in which he presented an entire picture of the past years pastoral duties, with projections for the coming year. Der Hayr went on to say he foresees the involvement of our youth with recommendations such as a junior parish council, a junior choir, classes for acolytes, and the formation of a youth group. The assembly, upon completion of Der Hayr's report, and at his request, arose, and a special prayer was said in memory of our departed member, Mr. Sam Jevanjian. Der Hayr's report was received enthusiastically and accepted as read.

The annual report of the Parish Council was presented by the chairman, Dr. Berdj Harabedian. He outlined the accomplishments

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and the activities of the past year and commended Der Hayr for the publication of the church newsletter, Voice, as well as the Ladies Guild for their successful financial year. His report was accepted as read.

The treasurer's financial report, and projected budget for 1975 was read by the treasurer, Richard Khachian. Copies of these reports were distributed among the assembly for inspection.

The balance of the checking account showed the amount of \$ 8,000.00. It was suggested that part of this be transferred to the savings account in order to draw interest. However, it was pointed out that this amount would be needed to operate from, thus avoiding further meetings to withdraw money if so needed. The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Mr. Marty Moomjian reported on behalf of the Auditing Committee, and commented everything was in order upon inspection of the books, and particularly thanked Mrs. Annie Khachian for her help.

The financial report of the Ladies Guild was read by Mrs. Annie Khachian. A check of \$ 1,500.00 had previously been given to the Parish Council.

The Mr. & Mrs. Club report was submitted by Mr. Mardy Azarian, in which he outlined the activities of the year.

The Sunday School report was read by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, in which the enrollment, number of classes and teachers and activities of the year were outlined.

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The Choir report was presented by Mrs. Sonia Trapasso, after which she brought particular attention to the upcoming Vartanantz Day affair which was being sponsored by the Choir.

The Pledge Committee report was read by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, in which she stated a membership of 98.

Mr. Edward Jevarjian representing the Building Committee, presented to the assembly several possible sites for the location of our new church. However, he stipulated that the \$ 50,000.00 designated in a former parish assembly meeting would not be adequate in today's market. He requested that this assembly grant an authorization in the amount of \$ 100,000.00 in which to negotiate with. After much discussion, a motion was made authorizing the Building Committee the amount of \$ 100,000.00 to be used to negotiate for a building site for a new church, upon which the final approval for purchase of said site will be the decision of the Parish Assembly. This motion was passed. Mr. Jevarjian also pointed out that the present balance in the Building Fund stands at \$ 5,671.69.

In regard to the Rooshanian Estate, situated on Bell Street, Bridgeport, a letter recommending the sale of said property was submitted by the Investigation Committee. This letter was read by Mr. Ralph Trapasso. The letter went on to say, that the

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Property was in dire need of repairs and completely run-down. Repairs at this time would be costly and unwise.

Mr. Richard Khachian proceeded to announce that the church had been given a binder on the property with the selling price of \$ 20,000.00. He also informed the assembly that the buyer of the property is willing to pay the church \$ 3,000.00 with a 10½ percent mortgage rate for ten years for the remaining balance of \$ 17,000.00, with a broker's commission of 6 percent. It is understood that the church would resume the mortgage since no bank is willing to give the buyer a mortgage. Mr. Khachian also pointed out that the buyer is willing to make all the necessary repairs on the building. After much discussion, Mr. Martin Moomjian pointed out that the rate of 10½ percent interest was excellent, and suggested to proceed with the transaction. A motion was made that the Parish Council move on selling the Rooshanian Estate or Bell Street property for the amount of \$ 20,000.00 with a mortgage rate of 10½ percent and a broker's commission of 6 percent. This was passed.

The next item on the agenda concerned the Pastor's raise in salary. Dr. Berdj Harabedian informed the assembly that the Parish Council had recommended a \$ 25.00 a week raise, making the Pastor's salary \$ 200.00 per week instead of the present

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salary of \$ 175.00. During the discussion period, it was suggested that due to today's inflationary costs, this amount would not be adequate. A recommendation of \$ 225.00 per week plus a credit card for gas issued in the name of the church, was suggested. After further discussion, a motion was made that the Pastor's salary be raised to \$ 225.00 a week plus a credit card for gas, issued in the name of the church. This was passed *unanimously.*

The adoption of the annual budget for 1975 was then brought to the attention of the assembly. The amount of \$ 28,000.00 had been projected for the coming year. A discussion followed, suggesting that the amount be changed because of the Pastor's raise. It was pointed out that this would not be necessary since the income from the Bell Street property would adequately balance out the new expense. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget. This motion was passed.

The election of five Parish Council members, the Diocesan delegate and alternate, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee was the next item on the agenda.

Ballot sheets were distributed at which time, Der Hayr explained the voting procedure, and also read the names of the candidates up for election.

While the Ballotting Committee was counting the number of

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votes, Der Hayr suggested that if there were any proposals for the annual Diocesan Assembly, this would be a good time to submit them. Since no proposals were offered, questions on Der Hayr's recommendations in his annual report were discussed. The topic of junior parish council was defined by Der Hayr. It is Der Hayr's intention to instruct and expose to our young adults the by-laws and rules of the church, to delegate various chores during the Badarak, and perhaps sponsor one affair a year by these young potentials so that they can get the feeling of involvement. Eventually, the ultimate goal would be eligibility for election into the Parish Council at age twenty-one.

It is also Der Hayr's intention to form a youth group, detached from the A.C.Y.A. temporarily. He feels this group should be organized from within themselves as the Holy Ascension Armenian Church Yourth Group, and then branch out into the National Youth Group. However, the ultimate goal is to organize within ourselves first.

A question of raising the annual dues from \$ 16.00 to \$ 25.00 was suggested. Several arguments for and against this proposal was discussed. Some felt that the Senior citizens who are on a limited budget would not be able to cope with the increase. On the other hand, others felt with the rising increase in costs, the raise of \$ 9.00 per person is imperative. After much

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discussion, a motion was made that the present membership dues of \$ 16.00 per person be raised to \$ 25.00 per person. This motion was passed. It was then suggested that all twenty-one years olds be approached for membership.

The results of the election were as follows:

Parish Council

Richard Khachian  
Dr. Robert Touloukian

Perry Shegirian  
Peter Kapusuzian

and Mardy Azarian as alternate in the event one of the elected could not continue.

DICESAN DELEGATE

Dr. Berdj Harabedian  
Harry Krikorian, Alternate

Nominating Committee

Edward Jevarjian  
Catherine Gopojan  
Leo Malkasian

Auditing Committee

Martin Moomjian  
Ralph Trapasso  
Mrs. Annie Khachian

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. with a benediction by Der Levon Arakelian.

Respectfully submitted,

*Theresa Harabedian*

Theresa Harabedian  
Secretary, Parish Assembly, 1975