

March 4, 1969

The annual general assembly meeting of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church of Bridgeport, Connecticut was held on Sunday, March January 2, 1969. Mr. Thomas Altoonian, the Chairman of the Parish Council, convened the meeting about 1:15PM.

The assembly was led in prayer by our pastor, Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan. Mr. Altoonian greeted those assembled and thanked them for their presence. He requested brevity in the ensuing proceedings because of the length of the agenda.

Prof. James Etmekjian was elected Chairman of the meeting and Mr. Richard Kalfaian was elected Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Jack Demirjian, Treasurer of the Parish Council, read the church membership list. Of 110 paid members, 40 were present, constituting more than a quorum.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted with no corrections. The assembly declined to have read the minutes of the special assembly held December, 1968.

Der Hayr Kalfayan presented the Pastor's report in Armenian. Mr. Edward Jevarjian requested that he also translate into English. Der Hayr promised to include the translation in the next issue of Pari Loor, the church bulletin. The report was accepted as read.

The report of the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Thomas Altoonian, was then presented. The report was accepted as read.

The Ladies' Guild report was presented by its <sup>Chairman</sup> ~~President~~, Mrs. Betty Altoonian, who announced that after a very successful season the Ladies' Guild was able to present the Parish Council with a check for \$1400. The 31 member group had netted \$1536. The report was accepted as read.

The Sunday School report, prepared by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, the Superintendent until her resignation recently, was presented by Mrs. Lena Gratchian, the acting Superintendent. She announced that the enrollment is now 65 pupils. The report was accepted as read.

The Choir report was not presented. Neither Miss Sara DerMagerdecian, Chairman, nor Miss Nicki Tarajian, Secretary, ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> present. The meeting Chairman directed that the report be published in the church bulletin as soon as possible.

The A.C.Y.O.A. was not represented at the meeting by any of its officers or members. The Parish Council president assured the assembly that the group had been notified of the meeting. After expressing his disappointment at the absence, Chairman Etmekjian directed that the A.C.Y.O.A. report should also be published in the church bulletin.

The Armenian School report had been included in the Pastor's report earlier in the meeting. Mr. Charles Jevarjian complained that the school was not being referred to by its proper name, the Shakeh Armenian School. He also demanded to know why <sup>the Friday afternoon</sup> classes were not held in the church hall instead of at the Altoonian home in Trumbull. Mr. Altoonian explained that at that time of day more children could conveniently attend at his home than at church. Mrs. Marge Hovey asked that the assembly commend the Altoonians for opening their home for classes. Mr. Altoonian had contacted the Supts. of Schools in Fairfield and Trumbull and they had informed him they could not supply facilities because of the completely Armenian nature of the classes. Mrs. Martha Khachadoorian volunteered to get classroom space from the town of Norwalk since they

allow such arrangements. Mr. Ralph Trapasso volunteered to find out about the Bridgeport schools. A motion was made by Mr. Vartan Stambolian that the assembly go on record in expressing its gratitude to the Altoonian family. The motion was seconded and accepted. A motion was made by Mr. Charles Jevarjian, seconded by Mr. John Krikorian, that Armenian School be held only in the church hall. After long and heated discussion, the motion was declined.

Our Diocesan Delegate, Prof. James Etmekjian, summarized the proceedings of the Diocesan Assembly. His report was accepted as read.

The Bazaar Committee Chairman, Mr. Edward Jevarjian, thanked all members of his committee and the parish for their efforts and support. A check for \$4168.37 was given to the Parish Council. The report was accepted as read.

The Building Committee report was given by its Chairman, Mr. Charles Khachian. His report, given verbally, was accepted.

Mr. John Stambolian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, reported that the Treasurer's books were found to be in order and thanked Treasurer Jack Demirjian for his fine work. The Chairman's report was accepted.

Mr. Demirjian distributed and explained the Baum & Lipton audit of the Parish Council's financial records. He pointed out that Sunday School receipts were not included in the audit because of personnel transfers and should be forthcoming. An explanation was requested and given for a \$250 legal disbursement. It was also explained that the Savings Account is the same as the Sinking Fund. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

In presenting the annual budget, Mr. Jack Demirjian and Mr. Thomas Altoonian analyzed the anticipated church income and expense for 1969. A Parish Council Program Committee consisting of Mr. Vahan

Hovey and Mr. Edward Jevarjian has been given the responsibility of raising the \$1200 "Special Activities" income budgeted for 1969. A discussion ensued as to what types of income should be included in the projected budget. Mr. Berdj Khachadorian asked Mr. Demirjian why the budget did not show any expenditures directed at the church youth and stated his opinion that the church must do much more to attract the younger element. Mr. Ed Jevarjian and Mr. James Etmekjian explained that the Mr. and Mrs. Club has the desire and intent to carry out some of this function. After discussion of plate and pledge collections, Mr. Steve Goomrigian motioned that the Parish Council should investigate the institution of an envelope system of voluntary contribution. After discussion, the motion was seconded and accepted. Mr. Richard Gratchian moved to accept the budget as submitted. Motion was accepted.

Mr. Edward Jevarjian moved that annual dues be raised from \$12 to \$25 per person. Seconded by Mr. Richard Gratchian. After discussion, the motion was declined by the assembly. Mr. Ralph Trapasso moved that dues be raised to \$16, the figure used in the projected budget. After discussion, the motion was accepted.

Nominating Committee Chairman Mr. Vartan Stambolian proposed the following names for Parish Council Members (the subsequent vote count is also shown): Mr. Jack Khachadorian-29, Mr. Edward Jevarjian-25, Mr. Richard Papazian-25, Mr. Thomas Altoonian-17, Mr. Robert Jezairian-17, Mr. Harry Magazian-17 (one-year term only), Mr. Richard Kalfaian-15 (alternate), Mr. Steve Goomrigian (declined nomination). The first five listed names were elected for two-year terms. The vote for Parish Council was a roll-call vote with secret ballot.

A motion was made that the Parish Council be raised to nine members. After discussion of the legality of this motion, Chairman Etmekjian exercised his prerogative and ruled the motion to be legal. Mr. Edward Jevarjian moved that the three names with 17 votes be elected to the council and that Mr. Kalfaian become an alternate. Motion was accepted. Chairman Etmekjian then pointed out that certain members of the new Council were elected illegally because they had not been paid members of the parish for at least six months and that the situation would have to be presented to the Diocese for its ruling.

Mr. Vartan Stambolian presented the following names for the new Nominating Committee. (the three highest votes were subsequently elected): Mr. Vartan Stambolian-26, Mr. Charles Khachian-25, Mr. Paul Jamgochian-19, Mr. Perry Shegirian-16, Mr. Charles Jevarjian-11, Mr. Charles Baltaian-5.

Three names were submitted for Diocesan Delegate: Dr. Berdj Harabedian-23, Mr. Berdj Khachadorian-7, Mr. Charles Khachian-2. Dr. Harabedian will serve with Prof. Etmekjian as the Delegates of this parish and Mr. Khachadorian will serve as alternate.

It was motioned and accepted that chairmen be elected for the Bazaar Committee and the Armenian School Committee and that they be allowed to select their respective committee members at a later time. Mr. & Mrs. Jack Demirjian were elected Bazaar Cochairmen. Prof. James Etmekjian was elected Armenian School Chairman.

No Old Business was discussed at the assembly.

For discussion of New Business, Prof. Etmekjian stepped from the Chair and spoke from the Floor. He expressed his dismay that

His Grace Abp. Torkom Manoogian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, had, without permission from the Catholicos, allowed Vartabed Vertanes Kalaydjian to renounce his vows of celibacy and to then be married by His Grace Bp. Kebreslian and resume his duties as a married priest without serving the prescribed term of penance. Prof. Etmekjian motioned that the Parish Council be authorized to attempt to setup a consultative assembly of New England Parish Councils and Diocesan Delegates to study this matter, After discussion, the motion was accepted. Prof. Etmekjian also moved that, in the event that no action results from the consultative, assembly, our parish should send a letter of protest to Abp. Manoogian with a copy being sent to the Catholicos. The motion was accepted.

The following people were accepted by the assembly as the new Auditing Committee: Mr. John Stambolian, Mr. Berdj Khachadorian, and ~~Mr. Richard Gratchian.~~ *Dr. Berdj Harabedian.*

The following people were accepted by the assembly as Trustees of the Sinking Fund: Dr. Berdj Harabedian, Mr. Berdj Khachadorian, and Mr. Richard Gratchian.

Der Hayr Kalfayan gave his Benediction and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

*Richard D. Kalfaian*

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Secretary

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Addition to the Minutes of the assembly meeting of 3/4/69

The following should be added:

Parish Council Chairman Mr. Thomas Altoonian moved to transfer the Sinking Fund from the present bank to another bank to gain a more favorable interest rate. Motion accepted.

Mr. Edward Jevarjian moved that Trustees of the Sinking Fund investigate possibility of investing the Fund, subject to the approval of the Parish Council and the parish assembly. The motion was accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard D. Kalfaian*

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Secretary