



The Holy Ascension Armenian Church



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1241 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. 06610 Tel. 333-8475

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan

February 20, 1972

The annual Parish Assembly Meeting of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church of Bridgeport, Connecticut took place on Sunday, February 20, 1972, in the church hall. The chairman of the Parish Council, Dr. Berdj Harabedian, called the meeting to order, at 2:10 p.m. The Invocation was delivered by the Rev. Father Guregh Kalfayan, Pastor, after which Dr. Harabedian greeted the parishioners. The membership roll was read by Mr. Jack Demirjian, Treasurer, who stated that the church now has a membership of 98 members. There were, however, only 31 members present. Since this did not constitute a quorum, it would be necessary for a two-thirds majority vote or in this case, 21 votes, on all decisions made at this Assembly.

Mrs. Theresa Harabedian was elected secretary of the Assembly, and Mr. Thomas Altoonian was elected chairman. The minutes of last years meeting was read and accepted.

At this point, it was brought to the attention of the Chair, that the 40th Anniversary Committee Report, as well as the special assembly meeting report were not included in the day's agenda. It was explained that the 40th Anniversary Report would be read under Old Business, and the special assembly report would be in the Parish Council Chairman's report, since it had been called by the Parish Council.

The Pastor explained to the Assembly that his annual report would be read in English this year, since he had been requested to do so. It included all activities, both Sacramental as well as administrative. He thanked all auxiliaries of the church, with specific thanks to the Parish Council Chairman, the organist, choirmaster, and the Deacons. He also explained that the Armenian Language School had ceased to function since May, 1971 because of his ill health. This report was accepted as read.

The Parish Council report was given by the Chairman, Dr. Berdj Harabedian, who stated that a total of 29 meetings were held in addition to the special combined meeting with the Auxiliaries, in order to form a calendar of coming events; and 5 affairs were sponsored solely by the Parish Council during the past year. He explained that \$ 1,000.00 of the \$ 3,500.00 loan from the bank had been paid, but because of the lack of funds, the repairs on the church were not initiated. Also, through the untiring efforts of the Parish Council, the church bulletin, *Pari Loor*, was being reprinted. He announced the formation of a new Pledge Committee, and through a rotating



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system, two Parish Council members are present every Sunday to meet the demands and needs of the parishioners and the church. In his closing remarks, he thanked everyone for all the help received. His report was accepted and read and submitted to the Chair.

Upon the request of Mr. James Kernicky, chairman of the Bazaar Committee, it was announced by the Chair, that his report would be read at this point on the agenda, because Mr. Kernicky had a previous engagement. Mr. Kernicky read to the Assembly a letter previously written to the Parish Council, giving in detail, a financial report. The net income of the Bazaar to date totaled \$ 4,487.00, with some outstanding money yet to come in. Mr. Kernicky thanked everyone for the success of the Bazaar. His report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The report of the Youth Group was given by Miss JoAnn Dinihanian, chairman. She explained that a \$ 50.00 check would be presented to the Parish Council at a later date. She also explained that she felt little or no interest was being shown to increase the number in this Group. The initial enrollment of the Group was 16, but now it was down to 7. After much discussion, it was suggested that this Youth Group associate itself with the A. C. Y. O. A., which is the special organization for our church youth. It was explained to Miss Dinihanian that involving the youth group with the A.C.Y.O.A. would mean involvement in community affairs, as well as Athletics, church procedure and social affairs. A motion was made that the Youth Group get together with the Parish Council and a Central Council member from New York in a joint meeting to discuss a possible A.C.Y.O.A. chapter in Bridgeport. This motion was passed. Miss Dinihanian's report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The Diocesan Delegate's report of the 69th Assembly held on April 30, 1971, in Montreal, Canada, was read by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, in the absence of Dr. James Etmekjian. This report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair. It was suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Etmekjian.

The Sunday School report was omitted in absence of a representative.

The Armenian Language School report was read by Dr. Berdj Harabedian. He gave a financial report with a present balance of \$ 92.99. He also informed the Assembly that at the close



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of the Armenian School in May, there was an enrollment of 12 students. He also explained that the Language School would re-open when the Pastor's health permitted him to resume his duties as instructor. It was suggested by Mr. Amira Dinihanian that a teacher for the Language School be obtained. Dr. Harabedian explained to the Assembly that the committee had considered this, but was unsuccessful in recruiting a teacher. His report was accepted as read, and submitted to the Chair.

The Choir report was read by Mrs. Sonia Trapasso. She gave a financial report, and the present balance stands at \$ 66.63. She also stated that the situation of the Choir is dire. Members are desperately needed to be trained as well as weekly participation on Sundays. A suggestion was made that the senior members of the Sunday School participate in Choir duties. The Assembly was informed that such a program is in effect. Still another suggestion was made to have a professional come in and teach the Liturgy. Mrs. Trapasso's report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The Ladies Guild report was given by Mrs. Martha Khachadorian in absence of Mrs. Kaye Demirjian. A financial report was read, and a check in the amount of \$ 500.00 had been turned over to the Parish Council. The present balance is \$ 221.24. Her report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The Mr. & Mrs. Club report was read by Mrs. Virginia Kalfaian, chairman. At present there are 24 couples as paid members. The names of the new officers were read to the Assembly and a run down of all the affairs of the past year was given. The present balance in their account is \$ 140.00. The amount of \$ 100.00 had been given to the Parish Council. Mrs. Kalfaian went on to say they are looking forward to a successful year and continued service to the church and the community. Her report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The Pledge Committee report was given by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, who reported the original idea of canvassing house to house with the Parish Council and Pledge Committee members was not successful, because some of the committee members were refused when trying to make appointments with the parishioners. However, 300 families have been contacted either by mail or personal visits. The Pledge System was explained and the importance



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of filling out the form promptly and mailing it to the church was stressed. Some guidelines as to how much one should contribute toward the pledges were offered. It was suggested that besides the membership dues of \$ 32.00 per couple, one might consider \$ 1.00 per week per person for the pledge, totaling \$ 132.00 per couple. It was also stated that the committee has set its goal for \$ 5,000.00. The Assembly was also informed about the new telephone directory, which is set to go into print this year. This report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

The Auditing Committee report was given by Mr. Thomas Altoonian. He stated that the books were in good order.

The Treasurer's report was read by Mr. Jack Demirjian. Copies of the financial statements were issued to all. After a question and answer period, the treasurer suggested that the professional accountant continue to audit the books each year, as "the church is growing and needs this service". The entry of \$ 554.00 in the expenditure column was asked to be explained by Mr. Andrew Traian. Mr. Demirjian read separate expenses for cleaning and services which covered this amount. The treasurer's report was accepted as read and submitted to the Chair.

X The projected budget for 1972 was presented by Mr. Ralph Trapasso, the amount being \$ 17,971.00, an increase of \$ 2,691.00 over last years budget. Mr. Trapasso explained each column separately, stating that the Pastor's salary was being shown with an increase of $5 \frac{3}{4} \%$ over the previous years, due to the rising costs in living. He also explained that practically all the items in the projected 1972 budget were increased at that rate because of similar reasons. During the discussion a question was raised if there were at the present any large unpaid bills. Mr. Demirjian answered, that other than the collateral loan of \$ 2,500.00, there is only Attorney King's bill of \$ 257.00, plus the monthly expenses of the church. A second question was raised as to how much does it cost to run this church. Mr. Demirjian explained that "we should figure on \$ 1,500.00 a month". It was suggested at this point of the discussion that all bodies of the church pull their forces together and work harder this year, in order to meet the expenses of the church. A motion was made that the budget be accepted as read. Discussion followed. It was suggested that the capital expenditures should not be eliminated.



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illuminated in the 1972 budget. Mr. Jack Demirjian also stated that the Pastor's raise should not be considered at this time. He also stated that such a proposal should come from the general assembly. He also recommended that Line 1 in the projected 1972 budget concerning the Pastor's raise in salary be treated separately as should the \$ 7,000.00 which was proposed in last years assembly for the improvements of the church. The motion was defeated.

X At this time a motion was made that we accept the 1972 projected budget with the proposed \$ 7,000.00 be included in the capital expenditures, bringing the total to \$ 24,971.00 for the projected budget for 1972. Under discussion for this motion, it was suggested by Mr. Amira Dinihanian that the repairs of the church be postponed for one year. Mr. Dinihanian offered to repair the windows which are in dire need. After much further discussion, Mr. Richard Papasian volunteered to be chairman of a special committee in order to raise the necessary funds of \$ 7,000.00 for the repairs of the church, and further stipulated that he would like to choose his own committee. This was accepted by the general assembly. It was then brought to the attention of all that the 5 3/4% increase in the Pastor's salary should have been shown on the agenda, when it was mailed out to the parishioners. Mr. Demirjian recommended that the Pastor's increase not be accepted. The chairman of the Parish Council was then asked to comment on this. Dr. Harabedian explained that the question of Der Hayr's salary was presented at the last meeting of the Parish Council prior to the General Assembly. However, he stated it was not a unanimous vote, but a majority. At this point, the chairman of the Assembly declared all discussion cease and a vote was taken on the proposed motion. This motion was defeated.

X A second motion was then made by Mr. Andrew Taraian to insert the \$ 7,000.00 for capital expenditures and to change Line 1, regarding the Pastor's salary, to \$ 8,300.00, instead of the proposed \$ 8,800.00; and to bring up the question of the Pastor's salary under New Business, thereby accepting the 1972 projected budget for a grand total of \$ 24,491.00. This was seconded by Mr. Demirjian. The motion was passed.

The Nominating Committee's proposed slate for Parish Council for 1972 were the following:



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Mr. Sam Jevanjian-----12 votes
Mr. Robert Jezairian-----24 votes
Mr. George Maljanian-----18 votes
Mr. John Dinihanian-----10 votes
Mr. Perry Shegirian-----19 votes
Mr. Harry Tashjian-----11 votes
Mr. Vartan Umaner-----11 votes
Mrs. Annie Khachian-----15 votes

Mrs. Annie Khachian's name was proposed from the floor. It was explained that the assembly must vote for 4 names. Mr. Taraian also explained that one Diocesan Delegate and one Alternate Delegate should also be voted on for a three year period. The proposed slate included only Mr. Thomas Altoonian's name. However, the following names were proposed from the floor.

Mrs. Martha Khachadoorian-----5 votes
Mrs. Keghan Stambolian-----5 votes
Mr. Richard Kalfaian-----15 votes
Mr. Thomas Altoonian-----19 votes

The elected Parish Council members were Robert Jezairian, George Maljanian, Perry Shegerian, and Mrs. Annie Khachian.

The Diocesan Delegate elected was Mr. Thomas Altoonian, and the Alternate, Mr. Richard Kalfaian.

A motion was made to keep the same nominating committee for 1972, which consists of: Mr. Richard Papasian, Mr. Andrew Taraian, and Mr. Paul Jamgochian.

The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee for the election of the Audjting Committee: Mr. Leo Malkasian, Mr. Jack Demirjian, Mr. Richard Najarian, and Mr. Martin Moonjian. A motion was made to accept the entire slate of names. This was passed.

A motion was made then to accept Mrs. Betty Dinihanian, Mr. Amira Dinihanian, and Mr. Paul Jamgochian for the Armenian Language School Committee. This was also passed.

Mr The following were elected to serve on the Pledge Committee:



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Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, Mrs. Annie Khachian, Mr. Vartan Umaner, Mrs. Sonia Trapasso, Mrs. Ginny Kalfaian, and Mrs. Betty Altoonian.

A motion was made that the election of the Building Committee be tabled and that the Parish Council arrange a special meeting in 60 days to discuss a new slate. This was passed.

No slate was presented by the Nominating Committee for a Bazaar Committee. However, the Assembly was informed that the Nominating Committee was considering approaching the Mr. & Mrs. Club. It was suggested that the Nominating Committee approach the people who were on the slate for the Parish Council, but were not elected, and also to approach any and all volunteers. The Nominating Committee is then to report their results to the Parish Council, so that they in turn can set up the date for the special Parish Assembly. This was put in the form of a motion and passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The 40th Anniversary Committee report was given by Mr. Ralph Trapasso. He stated that the net profit of \$ 725.00 was transferred to the Parish Council. He also thanked everyone for their support which helped make the affair a success. His report was accepted as read.

Mr. Amira Dinihanian then asked the Chair exactly how much money was in the checking account. Mr. Altoonian explained that as of Dec. 31, 1971, the balance is \$ 4,194.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

X A motion was made by Richard Kalfaian that the Priest's stipend be raised to the original \$ 8,800.00, as shown in the projected budget of 1972. It was necessary to take a new count of members as some had already left. At the time of the vote, 19 members were present. In checking the by-laws, it was necessary to have a 2/3 vote of those present, or 13 votes. The motion was defeated. (12 to 7)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m. with the Benediction by the Pastor.

PRESIDENT

Rev. Guregh Kalfayan
REV. GUREGH KALFAYAN

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Theresa Harabedian

Mrs. Theresa Harabedian, Secretary

Thomas J. Altoonian

Mr. Thomas Altoonian, Chairman