

THE HOLY ASCENSION ARMENIAN CHURCH OF BRIDGEPORT
1241 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, Ct. 06610

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan

March 28, 1970

The annual General Assembly meeting of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church of Bridgeport, Connecticut, was held on Sunday, March 8, 1970, in the Church hall. Mr. Harry Magazian, Chairman of the Parish Council, convened the meeting at 1:15 P.M.

The Assembly was led in prayer by our Pastor, Rev. Fr. Guregh Kalfayan.

Following the opening statement by the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Harry Magazian, the Church membership list was read by the Parish Council Treasurer, Mr. Jack Demirjian. Of 117 paid members, 39 were present, constituting exactly a quorum.

Prof. James Etmekjian was elected Chairman of the Assembly, and Mr. Richard Kalfayan was elected Secretary.

The minutes of the previous annual Assembly were accepted with corrections.

Chairman Etmekjian asked the Assembly to vote, whether a majority of voters present or of those voting, should be necessary to carry a motion. Mr. Vahan Hovey moved that a majority of voters present be necessary. Motion accepted.

Der Hayr Kalfayan presented the Pastor's report in Armenian. The English translation is to be published in the Pari Loor, our Church bulletin.

Mr. Harry Magazian gave his report as Chairman of the Parish Council. He asked for the support and cooperation of all members in furthering the aims and programs of the Parish Council in the coming year.

The Ladies' Guild report was given by Mrs. Marge Hovey. After a very successful season, the Guild had a net income of \$1310.34, \$1200 of which has been turned over to the Parish Council.

The Sunday School report was given by Superintendent John Accashian. He announced the intention of setting up a Nursery so that parents of preschool children could attend Church. Parishioners were reminded of the Palm Sunday Bake Sale. Of 42 enrolled students, about 20 regularly attend classes. Mr. Accashian asked those present to encourage children to attend the classes. His report was accepted.

The Armenian School Committee report was presented by its Chairman, Prof. James Etmekjian. Three meetings of the Committee were held in 1969. Eighteen children 9 to 14 years old attend Friday afternoon classes at Trumbull H.S. Six adults attend Tuesday night classes at the Church hall. Dr. Berj Harabedian, the Treasurer, reported

\$356.75 income, \$223.64 expenses, and \$133.11 bank balance. The report was accepted.

Mr. Jim Kernicky, the new President of the Mr. and Mrs. Club, reported \$1604.25 income, \$1387.64 expenses. The net income was \$216.61, \$150 of which has been given to the Parish Council. At present, there are 38 member couples. A cultural event is to be sponsored by the Club every year. The Club will also sponsor some event at the annual Bazaar. When asked by Dr. Harabedian about youth activities, Mr. Kernicky stated that initial attempts to organize a Youth Committee in the Club have met with little success but he assured the Assembly that the Mr. and Mrs. Club is committed to activating the youth of our Church. The report was accepted.

The Choir report was given by Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, in the absence of the Chairman, Miss Sara Der Magerdician. It was announced that the Choir had given \$100 to the Parish Council. The report was accepted.

No officers or members of the ACYOA were present to give a report. Mr. Magazian and Der Hayr Kalfayan stated that their numerous attempts to communicate with the ACYOA have been ignored. Mr. Jack Demirjian requested that the Assembly move to request the Parish Council to give high priority to organizing the Church youth. The motion was requested by Chairman Etmekjian, and it was made and accepted. Mr. Vahan Hovey questioned the legality of the Parish Council attempting to activate a failing organization. Dr. Berj Harabedian moved that the Parish Council be directed to obtain all the information necessary to assist in reorganizing the ACYOA. The motion was accepted.

The Bazaar Committee Chairman, Mr. Harry Magazian, requested that the financial report of the Committee be given by its Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Altoonian, who announced that net proceeds to date were about \$4050 with accounts receivable of about \$260. Mrs. Theresa Harabedian moved that in the future all Committee Chairmen be notified in advance, in writing, by the Parish Council, of the need to submit written financial and activity reports and to be present at the Assembly to present these reports verbally. After discussion pointing out that this is normal procedure anyway, the motion was accepted. The Bazaar Committee report was accepted.

No Building Committee report was presented.

Auditing Committee Chairman, Dr. Berj Harabedian, announced that the accounts of the Church were in order and thanked Parish Council Treasurer, Mr. Jack Demirjian. The report was accepted.

The Diocesan Delegate, Prof. James Etmekjian, reported on the proceedings of the 67th Diocesan Assembly which was held May 2 and 3, 1969, at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, Mass. His report was accepted.

Parish Council Treasurer Jack Demirjian gave his report. Dr. Harabedian challenged the transfer of \$8500 to the Sinking Fund contrary to Diocesan bylaws which require that such transfers be approved by the Parish Assembly. Mrs. Theresa Harabedian moved that the Assembly approve the transfer of \$8500 by the Parish Council to the Savings Account. Mr. Demirjian questioned the legality of this motion, maintaining that the fund was a savings account rather than a

sinking fund. Chairman Etmekjian ruled that the motion was in order. Mr. Ed Jevarjian challenged the authority of the Chair to make such a ruling. Mrs. Harabedian's motion was put to a vote and defeated. Mr. Thomas Altoonian moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted with corrections. The motion was accepted.

After discussion, the Annual Budget presented by Treasurer Demirjian was accepted.

The terms of the following Parish Council members were up: Mr. Jack Demirjian, Mr. Richard Gratchian, Mr. Vahan Hovey, and Mr. Harry Magazian. Mr. Gratchian and Mr. Hovey had declined to be candidates for reelection. Mr. Ed Jevarjian had resigned earlier in the year. The Nominating Committee Chairman, Mr. Vartan Stambolian, submitted the names of John Accashian, Jack Demirjian, and Harry Magazian. Berj Harabedian and Ed Jevarjian were nominated from the floor but both declined to be candidates. Motion accepted to close nominations. The Secretary cast one ballot for the slate, who were elected for a term of two years. The Parish Council now consists of 7 members.

Motion was accepted to retain the same Nominating Committee (Mr. Vartan Stambolian, Mr. Charles Khachian, and Mr. Paul Jamgochian).

Motion was accepted to retain the same Auditing Committee (Mr. John Stambolian, Mr. Berdj Khachadorian, and Dr. Berj Harabedian).

The Nominating Committee had no slate for a Bazaar Committee. Mrs. Betty Altoonian moved that the Assembly recommend to the Mr. and Mrs. Club that they take over and run the Bazaar for 1970. The motion was accepted.

Motion was accepted to retain the same Armenian School Committee (Prof. James Etmekjian, Dr. Berj Harabedian, and Mr. Berdj Khachadorian).

Mr. Vahan Hovey, representing the Parish Council, proposed nomination of a committee to prepare celebration activities for the 40th anniversary of our Church, to be observed in May, 1971. Mrs. Lillian Etmekjian and Mrs. Theresa Harabedian volunteered as Co-chairmen. Motion was accepted to accept their chairmanship and empower them to select their committee.

In discussion of old business, Mr. Ed Jevarjian stated his feeling that the youth of the Church has been cast aside and that no communications have been made with them. Father Kalfayan and Parish Council Chairman Magazian replied that their attempts to communicate with the ACYOA have been ignored and that the few successfully organized affairs have met with lukewarm response. A motion by Dr. Harabedian that the Parish Council investigate establishment of a youth center promoted much discussion and was finally accepted. No other old business was discussed.

In discussion of new business, Mr. Paul Jamgochian moved that certain retired gentlemen members of the community be allowed to use the back room of the Church Hall for social purposes twice a week. The Assembly voted to discuss the motion. Mrs. Theresa Harabedian questioned the nature of the activities, After discussion the motion was accepted. Mrs. Keghan Stambolian moved that the Church

hire a cleaner for one day a week. The Assembly voted to discuss, and accepted the motion. No other new business was discussed.

A motion to adjourn was accepted. Rev. Fr. Kalfayan gave his Benediction at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kalfaian

Richard Kalfaian, Secretary

James Etmekjian

James Etmekjian, Chairman