

February 8, 1976

The annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church took place on Sunday Afternoon, January 25, 1976, at 1:00 p.m. in the church dining hall.

After the Invocation by Der Hayr, the membership list, which constituted a total of 102 paid up members, was read for verification. It was announced that one-third of the total membership would be considered a quorum. Forty-five members were present.

The chairman and secretary of the day were Dr. & Mrs. Berdj Harabedian, respectively. Minutes of last year's assembly were read and accepted.

Minutes of a special parish assembly, which was held on August, 1975, regarding the Rooshanian property, were read by Darwin Jangochian. It was stated in his report that "it be advisable to sell the property located at Bell Street, Bridgeport, because of the run-down condition and the numerous violations on the property". The property was finally sold for the amount of \$ 14,000.00.

The Building Committee reported that a suitable property had not yet been available. However, the committee was looking for either raw land or a suitable group of buildings. This report was accepted as read.

The Pastor's report outlined the activities of the past year. Der Hayr stated his disappointment in the lack of progress in various activities, emphasizing the Youth Program. He suggested an evaluation of an annual check-up of the Parish. He concluded his report with the pastor's activities for the past year, outlining specifically the publication of the Voice, the printing of the church flyers, the continuing classes of the Armenian Language and History. Der Hayr thanked all the executive bodies and various committees for their fine work. He also expressed a desire that the coming year be more successful and full of cooperation and hard work. The Pastor's report was accepted as read.

The Parish Council report presented by the chairman, Perry Shegirian, outlined the many affairs of the year sponsored by the Parish Council, and also stipulated that the parish had an extremely successful financial year. He thanked all who contributed toward the success of the Parish. His report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was read by Richard Khachian. Detailed financial reports were distributed to the members. The total receipts for 1975 were \$ 36,954.80, including the checking account balance of \$ 8,271.36. A projected budget of \$ 30,000.00 was presented for 1976. Dr. Harabedian suggested that the assembly study the reports for at least five minutes before their comments or questions. A \$ 42.00 expense listed under the Choir was questioned by Sonia Trapasso. It was explained to her that this amount was spent for the purchase of books which were presented to the members of the choir on Palm Sunday.

On behalf of the Auditing Committee, Ralph Trapasso reported that the books had been audited properly and everything checked out satisfactory.

The Ladies Guild report was read by Rose Shegirian, in which she outlined the past affairs of the year. She also stated that there is a total membership of 41 ladies, and the present balance in their account is \$ 231.23. A balance of \$ 1,500.00 had already been turned over to the Parish Council. Her report was accepted as read.

The Mr. & Mrs. Club report was read by Roxy Jezairian. She reported a membership of 19, a balance of \$ 200.06 in the treasury, and also projected the affairs for the coming year. Her report was accepted as read.

The Sunday School report was given by Jeanne Maljanian, in which she outlined the activities of the Sunday School and the balance in their treasury of \$ 863.86. Her report was accepted as read.

The Choir report was read by Fraij Yapoujian, who praised the success of the recent dinner sponsored by the choir members. The present balance in their treasury is \$ 76.79. This report was accepted as read.

In the absence of Edward Jevanjan, the Building Committee report was presented by Richard Khachian. He stated that many land sites had been looked over and considered, but for various reasons, none had proven suitable. He went on to suggest that the committee is still looking for either a desirable landsite or a suitable group of buildings which can be converted to our needs. The present balance in the Fund

is \$ 10,578.54. A suggestion was offered that an ad be placed in the Bridgeport Post, specifying exactly what our needs are. The report was accepted as read.

The Fledge Committee report was given by Darwin Jangochian. He commented that the membership list had dropped from 108 members to 102 members. His intention is to approach people and set up some kind of plan. He announced that volunteers are needed for visitations.

New Business:

A letter written by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jevarjian requesting that the Diocesan Council consider elevating Der Levon Arakelian to the position of Arch Priest, (Avak Kahana) was read to the Assembly. Upon explanation of the contents of the letter to the assembly, a motion was made that a letter be sent to Archbishop Torkom Manogian for the request. The motion was passed unanimously.

Der Hayr then suggested that a permanent list of benefactors and supporters of the church, past and present be permanently inscribed on a plaque for public display. The assembly approved and it was suggested that a committee be formed in order to compile the list of names. A motion was then made that a committee be formed to compile and determine the names that will be inscribed on the plaque. After a list is formed, it shall meet with the approval of the parish assembly, for final acceptance. This motion was passed. The names of Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, Mr. Zakar Topalian, and Mr. Charles Jevarjian were suggested to head the committee.

Discussion for the 1976 Budget:

A letter was read by Perry Shegirian, stating that new directives had been received from the Diocese, that due to rising costs, an annual adjustment would be necessary for all clergy, such as salary, housing and utility expenses, and car expenses, (15¢ a mile). Because of this an additional amount of \$ 3,900.00 was projected into the 1976 budget, which allowed the Pastor's expenses for housing and utilities. After much discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget.

Ballots were then distributed for the election of the following:

Three Parish Council Members, the Nominating Committee, and the Auditing Committee.

Those elected were:

Parish Council, Mardy Azarian, Richard Najarian, and Darwin Jangochian

Nominating Committee, Ralph Trapasso, Harry Eriksorian, and Leo Malkasian

Auditing Committee, Mrs. Annie Khachian, Dr. Berdj Harabedian, and Martin Moomjian

Under further new business, suggestions were made to repair the furnace. The Parish Council stated it was already being taken care of.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. with a Benediction by Der Hayr.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Harabedian,  
Secretary