



Holy Ascension Armenian Church

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1241 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn. 06610

Tel. (203) 333-8475

Rev'd. Leon Arakelian, Pastor

Jan. 23, 1977

The annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church took place on Sunday afternoon, January 23, 1977, at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

After the Invocation, which was given by Rev. Levon Arakelian, it was determined that there were 93 members who had completed their dues obligation for 1976 and 37 of these members were present and voting.

The Parish Assembly voted to have Dr. Berdj Harabedian serve as Chairman for the meeting and Mr. Ralph Trapasso to serve as Secretary.

Minutes of the last annual Parish Assembly meeting, which was held on January 25, 1976, and of the special Parish Assembly meeting, which was held on September 27, 1976, were read and unanimously approved by the Assembly.

The following reports were given by the Pastor and the various Church Organizations:

Pastor's Report: Rev. Levon Arakelian outlined his previous year's activities as Pastor and spiritual leader of our Church. He thanked and commended those parishioners who diligently gave of their time and service for the betterment of our Church, and lead the entire assembly in prayer for the memory of those who passed away during the preceding year. Among the items that Rev. Arakelian stressed was the urgent need for a new church building and the hope that the coming year will witness the beginning of this project. The Pastor's report was unanimously accepted and approved as read.

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Parish Council Report: The Parish Council report was given by Chairman Perry Shegirian. It outlined the various activities of the Parish Council during the preceding year and was unanimously accepted and approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report (copy enclosed) was presented by Mr. Richard Khachian. The report showed total receipts for the year ending December 31, 1976, as \$30,500.99 and total expenditures as \$35,953.97. The total accumulated savings for the Church as of December 31, 1976, were \$81,624.70. It was noted that some unexpected expenses, including an increase in diocesan dues, repairs of the furnace, and over-estimation of potential income caused the year to end in a deficit. After some routine questions, the report was unanimously accepted and approved as read.

The 1977 proposed budget of \$32,500 was distributed to the Assembly. A question was raised on the possibility that the proposed budget showed another over-estimation of potential income which may create another deficit. Rev. Arakelian reminded the Assembly of its responsibility to work for and support the activities of the Church to ensure the anticipated revenue. After some routine discussion, the proposed budget for the year 1977 was unanimously accepted and approved.

Auditing Committee Report: This report was given by the Chairman of the Auditing Committee, Dr. Bordj Harabedian. He stated all books and records were checked and everything was in order.



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Voting Results: Voting was held for four openings on the Parish Council, three members to serve on the Nominating Committee and three members to serve on the Auditing Committee. The following were elected:

For Parish Council - Mr. Perry Shegirian, Mr. Richard Khachian
Mr. Steve Goomrigian, Mr. Leo Malkesian
Mr. Varten Terpinian was elected alternate

For Nominating Committee - Mr. Edward Jevanjian, Mrs. Catherine Gopojan
Mr. Ralph Trapasso
Mr. Sarkis Kaolian was elected alternate

For Auditing Committee - Mrs. Anne Khachian, Dr. Berdj Harabedian
Mr. Marty Moomjian
Mr. Leo Krikorian was elected alternate

Ladies Guild Report: A report of the Ladies Guild activities (financial report enclosed) was given by Mrs. Rose Shegirian. The Ladies Guild turned over to the Parish Council a check for \$2,600.00 as their contribution for the year. This report was accepted as read.

Sunday School Report: A report on the activities of the Sunday School was presented by Mrs. Grace Arakelian, Superintendent, and a financial report was submitted by its treasurer, Mrs. Alice Moomjian (both reports enclosed). Mrs. Arakelian reported that there are approximately sixty students enrolled in the Sunday School program, with a 90% attendance record weekly. The program is divided into nine classes and the Diocesan Curriculum is being adhered to. Mrs. Moomjian reported that there was a balance of \$932.71 in the Sunday School account. The reports were accepted as read.

Choir Report: A report on the choir's activities and a financial statement were presented by Miss Niki Tarajian. (both enclosed)



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She outlined the activities during the year and invited new members to join. The Choir turned over to the Parish Council a check for \$200.00 as their contribution for the year. The Choir report was accepted as read.

Mr. & Mrs. Club Report: The Mr. & Mrs. Club report was presented by Chairman, Mrs. Araxy Jezeirian (copy enclosed). The report stated that lack of interest in the organization over the past two years has caused the club to suspend activities as of December 31, 1976. A check in the amount of \$451.30, which represents the total current balance in the Club's account, was turned over to the Parish Council. It was agreed that a new attempt will be made to re-organize the Mr. & Mrs. Club in 1977. This report was accepted as read.

Building Committee: An oral report on the Building Committee's activities was presented by Mr. Richard Khachian. Mr. Khachian stated that a building permit for the new church on property located in Trumbull is still pending by the Trumbull Planning & Zoning Commission. He also reported that there was some objection to building a church by some Trumbull residents, and it could not be determined what the final outcome would be at this time. We would have to wait for Zoning Board's decision.

Benefactors Committee: An oral report was presented by Rev. Arakelian concerning the Benefactors Committee which was organized after the last annual Parish Assembly. He reported that the Committee had nine names to present to the Assembly for their consideration. If approved, these



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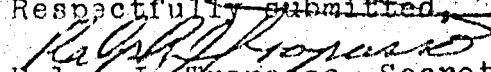
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names would be placed on permanent plaque for public display. After considerable discussion as to the merits and contributions of particular people, a motion was made by Mr. Berdj Khachadourian and amended by Mrs. Theresa Harabedian which called for the tabling of any action relative to the Benefactors Committee recommendation until next year during which time prospective names could be more closely studied and a list of nominees could be mailed to parishioners prior to the next annual meeting for their review, consideration and additional recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Arsha Khachadourian and unanimously approved.

Diocesan Convention: Dr. Harabedian asked if the Assembly had any new proposals to present to the next Diocesan Convention. There were none.

New Business: Rev. Arakelian suggested the consideration of a new pledge system, which would allow for both "communicant" and "auxilliary" members of the Church. Under the proposal, Communicant members would pay their dues, would be asked to make a pledge and would be eligible to vote and hold office in Church organizations. The Auxilliary members would be those friends of the Church who would not wish to be dues-paying members, but they would be willing to pledge and contribute to the Church in other ways. The proposal generated intensive discussion concerning the merits of placing people into two categories. After considerable debate, no action was taken on the proposal.

There being no further new business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. after a Benediction by Der Levon.

Respectfully submitted,

 Ralph J. Trapasso, Secretary