

Minutes of Meeting
Annual Parish Assembly
Holy Ascension Armenian Church

1. The annual parish assembly of the Holy Ascension Armenian Church was held on Jan. 29, 1978 in the Church Hall on Barnum Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.
2. The meeting was called to order by Steve Goomrigian, Chairman of the Parish Council, at 1:20 P.M. Der Hayr Levon Arakelian opened the meeting with an invocation. Darwin Jamgochian, secretary of the Parish Council, read the minutes of the last Parish Assembly held Jan. 23, 1977. Marty Moomjian moved the minutes be accepted as read, Gladys Jevanjan seconded the motion, and the minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.
The secretary then read the minutes of the special meeting held Nov. 19, 1977 at the Bezean Church. Richard Calfayan moved that the minutes be accepted as read, the motion was seconded by Sona Trapasso and was passed by unanimous vote.
3. The secretary then read the roll of the members to ascertain the presence of a quorum. 103 names were read and 58 responded as to their presence. A quorum having been established, it was agreed that the business of the assembly could proceed.
4. Mr. Goomrigian requested nominations from the floor for Assembly Chairman. Mr. George Maljanian nominated Dr. Berj Harabedian, Mr. Haig Gulbenkian seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Dr. Harabedian was elected Chairman.
Elisa Khachian nominated Mr. Garabed Hovhanesian secretary, 1
Rose Shegirian seconded the nomination. There being no further nominations, Mr. Hovhanesian was elected secretary.
5. The Assembly then took up the agenda in the announced order.
 - A. The first order of business was the report of the Der Hayr. The report is on file but highlights included the performance of 2 weddings, 2 engagements, 7 funerals and the addition of 2 new families to the membership rolls. Along with fulfilling all of his religious obligations, he made calls on the sick and indigent whenever he was notified as well as attending to all the other secular duties associated with the administration of Church affairs. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the Pastors report.
 - B. The nominating committee presented a slate of candidates for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. Ballots were passed out and the membership proceeded to vote. Mr. Maljanian commended to the newly elected and re-elected stewards the need to seriously carry out the duties and obligations imposed by this stewardship. The business of the Assembly was continued while the votes were being counted. However the results of the vote are recorded as follows:

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| Elected to Parish Council; | |
| Mr. Garabed Hovhanesian | 50 votes |
| Mr. Marty Azarian | 35 votes |
| Mr. Stanley Zysk | 25 votes |
| Alternates or runners-up | |
| Mr. Harry Tashjian | 22 votes |
| Mr. Darwin Jamgochian | 14 votes |
| Mr. Herbert Avakian | 10 votes |

Mr. George Maljanian's name had been put on the ballot but he declined the nomination. Mr. Jamgochian's name was added with his consent.

Elected to the Nominating Committee were:

Mr. Edward Jevarjian 39 votes
Mr. Sarkis Kaolian 33 votes
Mrs. Keghan Stambolian, 28 votes

Alternates or runners-up were:

Mr. Marty Sinanian 19 votes
Mr. Fraij Yapouzian 19 votes
Mr. Steve Jezairian 18 votes

Elected to Auditing Committee were:

Dr. Berj Harabedian 46 votes
Mr. Marty Moomjian 31 votes
Mr. Berj Khachadorian 29 votes

Alternates or runners-up were:

Mrs. Anne Khachian 26 votes
Mr. Haig Gulbenkian 16 votes
Mr. Andrew Topalian 7 votes

- C. Mr. Steve Goomrigian then gave the Parish Council report. The report is on record and available for study. In anticipation of acquiring title to the Berean Church it became apparent that a legal name for our church body had to be established. Der Hayr indicated the name chosen was "The Armenian Apostolic Church of the Holy Ascension". A motion was made by Sona Trapasso that the word "Apostolic" be deleted. It was seconded and passed by a vote of 28 to 7, with the stipulation however that there are no technical or other objections from the Diocese.
- D. Dr. Berj Harabedian gave the report of the Auditing Committee. All matters of the account were found to be in good order. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the report.
- E. Mr. Richard Khachian handed out copies of the Treasurer's report and answered questions about the contents. All questions having been answered satisfactorily, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.
- F. Mrs. Rose Shegirian gave the report of the Chairlady of the Ladies Guild as well as her own treasurer's report. She announced that the Chairlady had resigned for personal reasons. A motion made, seconded and passed to accept both reports. The Ladies Guild was commended for their industry and dedication to the needs of the Church and the well being of its members.
- G. Mr. Fraij Yapouzian reported on the choir's activities and invited more members to participate. He reported that a choir director is actively being sought.
- H. Der Hayr gave the report of the Sunday School. He reported that at the beginning of the year, several teachers of long standing resigned for personal reasons. Mr. Robert Petrossian undertook the duties of superintendent. He was particularly effective with the young people especially as regards their recreational activities. Despite vigorous efforts to create interest and a regular attendance, interest and consequently attendance fell so that on Jan. 8, 1978 it was decided to suspend the program until we get situated in our new Church. Mr. Moomjian turned over to the assembly a check for \$1147.60 from the Sunday School treasury. This money will be incorporated into general fund and the needs of the school will be provided by the Parish council.
- I. Dr. Harabedian gave the report of the Diocesan Assembly held in Providence May 5-7, 1977.

The report was quite lengthy and he offered for public perusal. He did however comment on plans to divide the Diocese into 4 regional sub Diocese for purposes of more responsive administration. Plans are far from complete so that not much else could be reported.

- J. Mr. Ed Jevarjian gave the report of the Building Committee. He indicated that the committee went through trials and tribulations while trying to get land in Trumbull on which to build a church. The committee, after exhausting several possibilities, settled on the Berean Church. A mortgage of \$250,000 at $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ has been obtained from the Fairfield County Savings Bank without having to pay points etc. It is an open ended loan and can be payed off anytime without penalty. The Kickoff dinner will be held at the Algonquin Club on April 1, 1978.
- K. Mr. Richard Khachian presented the proposed budget for 1978. Copies were distributed for the membership to study. There was a discussion regarding the use of a pledge system to insure uniform as well as increased fund flow. Pledge cards were passed out to the members present so that a good start could be made in the use of the pledge envelopes. It was clearly pointed out that pledge donations do not go towards dues payments.
- L. Under the heading of old business, Mrs Jevarjian noted that two Parish Assemblies ago, the membership had expressed the wish that Der Hayr be bestowed the Title of Avak Kahana. This wish had been conveyed to the Prlacy but as of this date a satisfactory response has not been received. By a spontaneous unanimous vote the assembly leadership was asked to inquire into the matter.
- M. Under new business, Mrs Calfayan inquired if the 1978 Bazaar committee had been established. Der Hayr reported that although the committee had not been set, several committees are already at work preparing arts and handicrafts etc.
- N. There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn. Der Levon gave the Benediction and the meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Garabed Hovhanesian
Secretary

Garabed Hovhanesian
Dr. Berj Harabedian
Chairman

Mr. M. G. Arakelian
Rev. Father Levon Arakelian
President

Rev. Levon Arakelian