

Holy Ascension Armenian Church

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1460 HUNTINGTON TURNPIKE
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

Rev. Leon Arakelian, Pastor

Tel. (203) 372-5770

January 23, 1983

The annual Parish Assembly Meeting of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension was held on Sunday, January 23, 1983 at 1:25 p.m. in the church auditorium, with a prayer by Der Levon Arakelian, pastor.

A roll call was taken by Dr. Berdj Harabedian, chairman of the Parish Council, in order to affirm the number of active dues paying members. Twenty-seven members were present. Since this did not constitute a quorum, the by-laws were read regarding the legality of the meeting. It was disclosed that the meeting could be held, however, a two-third majority vote is necessary for all affirmative decisions, with the confirmation and approval from the Primate as well as the Diocesan Council. The following officers of the day were elected:

Chairman.....Mardiros Azarian
Secretary.....Theresa Harabedian

The first order of business was the election of four parish council members by the assembly. The chairman asked for any nominations from the floor. Peter Kapusuzian suggested that Dr. Berdj Harabedian and Ralph Trapasso reconsider for re-election and that their names be added to the slate. This was in the form of a motion. It was seconded. During discussion, Dr. Harabedian stated that he could not possibly consider another term for personal reasons, and Ralph Trapasso said he needed a change. The motion was withdrawn from the floor. Der Hayr then proceeded to explain the voting procedure and also gave a brief biography of each candidate.

A motion was then made that Rose Shegirian's name be added to the slate of names for Parish Council. This motion was passed. The chairman however did allow further names for nominations for the Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, and Delegate. Since no other nominations were suggested from the floor, a motion was made that all nominations cease, and the voting begin. This was passed.

The secretary read the minutes of last years assembly meeting. The report was accepted as read.

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Auxiliary Reports:

The Parish Council annual report was given by the chairman, Dr. Berdj Harabedian. The names of the elected officers were read. He outlined the various affairs of the year sponsored by the Parish Council and also gave a detailed report on the repairs and renovations of the church, namely the interior and exterior painting of the church, the bricking of the facade, and the acquisition of the two front doors.

He also mentioned the special fund for the microfiche reference books (two in number) amounting to nine hundred twenty dollars (920.00). He announced that one already had been donated to Yale University, New Haven, and the other would be taken to University of Connecticut, Storrs, in the near future, most probably in a few weeks.

Dr. Harabedian explained to the Assembly that a new pledge campaign is in the works, an affair to consecrate the church in May or June will take place and hoped the parishioners would give their support at that time. He thanked Der Hayr for his advice, and all the auxiliaries for their help and cooperation in the past year.

The Auditing Committee report was given by Garabed Hovhanessian, outlining several recommendations for the coming year. After much discussion, it was suggested to the auditing committee that their duties are mainly to examine and audit the books and report on their findings.

A motion was then made that the Parish Council investigate the cost of hiring a suitable accountant to audit the books during the course of the year, at which time flyers should be sent to the parishioners with information regarding the cost of engaging an accountant. This motion was passed.

The Ladies Guild report was presented by the co-chairpeople, Connie Kasparian, and Rose Shegirian. They outlined the Guild's activities and recommended the following articles be purchased for the church kitchen - a food processor, an electric can opener, and cutco knives. A financial report was also given, at which time a check for \$1,000.00 one thousand dollars, was presented to the Parish Council. A balance of \$298.98 was left for the new year.

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The Choir Report was read by Sonia Trapasso. She also gave a detailed report on the Choir activities and presented a check for \$ 500.00 to the Parish Council, leaving a balance of \$423.15.

The Sunday School Report was given by Theresa Harabedian. She outlined the activities and presented a check for \$ 500.00 to the Parish Council leaving a balance of \$ 377.05.

The A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. report was read by Maral Kehkejian and Melissa Tashjian. The sports week-end was mentioned along with their other activities of the year. Also their future meetings were outlined. A check for \$ 100.00 was presented to the Parish Council leaving them with a balance of \$ 26.00.

The Building Committee report was read by Richard Kalfaian. He read the existing balances on the various accounts and said that a new fund raising campaign be considered. It was stated that our present mortgage consists of \$ 220,000.00

Der Hayr's Report: Der Hayr stated in his yearly report that although there has been some progress, we have also failed in some aspects, mainly regarding the need for volunteers, people in all the auxiliaries of the church. He outlined the criteria needed for the success and progress of our church. He said the challenges are many and also stressed the importance of the Sunday School, increasing the enrollment, the youth of the community, identifying themselves with the church through the ACYOA or any other auxiliary they might be interested in. It was also suggested by Der Hayr that our own Endowment Fund be established or support the existing Diocesan Endowment Fund. He went on to say that all of us should subscribe the weekly pledge system, and in doing this, along with the income received from the annual Bazaar, should cover our Budget.

Der Hayr outlined his pastoral duties and the number of rituals and sacraments, his administrative work, mainly, the Voice, the church paper, a variety of flyers, the updating of the church mailing list and his visitations to the sick.



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He acknowledged the support and leadership of Dr. Berdj Harabedian during his four years as Parish Council chairman. A sad moment in Der Hayr's report was brought about when he announced his final decision to move on to San Diego, Cal. sometime in May or June, 1983, to take on the pastoral duties of that church.

In closing, Der Hayr encouraged the success of the Parish without him. At this time Dr. Harabedian spoke to the Assembly saying how much Der Levon will be missed and how difficult it will be to replace him.

The Treasurer's report and the Budget for 1983 was presented to the Assembly by Steve Goomrigian, Treasurer. The Budget for the coming year is \$ 60,850.00. It was noted that the Diocese has suggested that a breakdown of the plate collections, candles, dues and pledges be accounted for in the future. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report and the new budget. This was passed.

The results of the election were:

Parish Council: Mardiros Azarian, Dr. Sarkis Nazarian, Garabed Garabedian, and Harry Tashjian.

Diocesan Delegate: Dr. Berdj Harabedian, Garabed Hovhanessian, alternate.

Nominating Committee: Keghan Stambolian, Peter Kapusuzian, and Sonia Trapasso.

Auditing Committee: Martin Moomjian, Richard Khachian, and Garabed Hovhanessian.

The Bazaar Report was given and a net profit of \$ 13,000.00 was realized. It was also noted that more money is still coming in from the ad book.

There was no Old Business.

New Business: It was suggested that a farewell party be given to Lena and Richard Gratchian since they are moving to Florida.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m. with a Benediction by Der Hayr.

Rev. Leon Arakelian
President

Respectfully submitted
Theresa Harabedian
Theresa Harabedian, Secretary

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January 23, 1983 Parish Council Annual Report

Upon approval of the parish assembly minutes by the Diocese, the following were elected as officers of the parish council at a meeting held on March 24, 1982:

Dr. Berdj Harabedian, Chairman
Stanley Zysk, Vice Chairman
Stephen Goomrigian, Treasurer
Ralph Trapasso, Secretary
Sharvash Papazian, Assistant Treasurer
Harry Tashjian, In charge of maintenance
Edward Jevarjian, Advisor

During 1982, a total of eleven meetings were held. Also combined meetings were held with the Bazaar Committee for proper arrangements of this important event. On several occasions, we met with the Building Committee to discuss repairs of the church. I am happy to report that the exterior painting and brick facade has been completed. Also new doors have been installed, giving our church a more attractive appearance.

In 1982, the following affairs were sponsored by the parish council:

February 21, 1982 ---- St. Vartanantz Day
April 25, 1982 ----- Armenian Martyrs' Day
May 23, 1982 ----- Church Name Day
August 15, 1982 ----- Annual Church Picnic
November 5,6,7, 1982 - Mt. Ararat Bazaar and Festival

During the Vartanantz Day celebration, a special fund was established for the Armenian Architecture Microfiche project. A total of \$ 920.00 was collected and ~~two~~ books were purchased. One was delivered two weeks ago to the Yale School of Architecture, and the other will be donated to the University of Connecticut School of Architecture in the near future.

Also, through the efforts of Yeretzgin Grace and Theresa Harabedian, a special trip to Amish Country was organized on September 13, and 14, and a net

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income of \$ 1,000.00 was presented to the church.

For our future plans - I believe it is extremely important to mention that we are in the process of organizing a new pledge campaign, in order to meet our mortgage payments. From the report of the Building Committee, you will notice that we urgently need new financial resources. Our preliminary plan is to consecrate our church on Name Day in May, 1983, and have a special gala affair to celebrate this historical event.

Ladies and gentlemen, upon completion of my fourth year as chairman of your Parish Council, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our parish Council members. Their cooperation made my job more pleasant and easier. My thanks to Father Levon Arakelian, whose assistance and advice was extremely helpful in the performance of my duties.

And finally, on behalf of the parish council I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Ladies Guild, Sunday School Staff, Choir members, the Bazaar Committee, and Yeretzgin Grace for their support and cooperation, and especially to you, dear parishioners, for your financial and moral help.

Respectfully submitted,

Berdj Harabedian M.D.
Dr. Berdj Harabedian
Chairman, Parish Council,

Ralph Trapasso
Secretary

Rev. Leon Arakelian
Pres. Parish Council