

Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension  
1460 Huntington Turnpike  
Trumbull, Conn. 06611

*Minutes of  
Jan. 31, 1988 PARISH  
ASSEMBLY*

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension was held on Sunday, January 31, 1988. The Assembly opened at 1:00 p.m. with the invocation by Der Untzag Nalbandian. Chairman for the Day was Archie Misakian with Nicky Taraian serving as Secretary. Both of them were elected.

Verification of dues-paying members was conducted by Richard Kalfayan. Of the total of 125 eligible members, 60 were present.

Mr. Kalfayan read the lengthy minutes of the 1987 Assembly. Thomas Garabedian moved that in the future minutes be kept as short as possible. The motion was seconded and passed. The minutes were questioned as to the \$50.00 dues for 1988. Council Treasurer Shavarsh Papazian explained that a vote had been taken and the dues were changed to \$35.00 per year. Mr. Misakian asked that it be reflected in the minutes that a motion was passed changing the dues to \$35.00 for 1988. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded.

In preparation for elections, Nominating Committee Member Peter Kapusuzian explained that Herbert Avakian, Mardy Azarian and Shavarsh Papazian each had one more year to serve on the Parish Council. He introduced all nominees asking them to stand and be recognized. He stated that we must vote for only four Parish Council Members. Ballots were distributed, election took place and the ballots were collected and taken to be tallied.

Der Untzag gave the Pastor's Report in Armenian and English. The highlight of his report was his success in making arrangements with Trumbull town authorities to have a street given an Armenian name, either "Armenia" or "Mount Ararat."

Parish Council Chairman Mardy Azarian gave his report, following which Ralph Trapasso thanked Mardy for his services above and beyond the call of duty.

The Chairman welcomed comments from various committee chairpersons concerning previously distributed reports. Choir Chairman Vrej Yapoujian presented a \$750.00 check. Women's Guild Chairperson Margaret Azarian reported that since no new Guild had been established its bank account had been closed and she presented a \$3754.62 check. A personal gift was also presented to Der Untzag and Yeretgin Setta on behalf of the 1986-87 Guild for their support and guidance. Armenian School Chairperson also presented a personal gift.

Mrs. Eleanor Zysk offered her thanks to the women who had contributed to the pastry booth during the bazaar. A suggestion was made that part of the monies received be put towards a new copying machine. Ralph Trapasso amended his bazaar report by stating that although the item dealing with the ad book showed \$1485.00 profit, another \$500.00 had come in which would bring the account over \$2000.00.

Mr. Papazian reported that the parish house had been rented in 1987 at a monthly rental of \$1095.00 and that the security deposit had been properly deposited.

Mrs. Salpi Tokatlian questioned \$150.00 contribution to the Armenian School. Mr. Papazian offered to check his records and report to her as to how contribution had been made.

Mr. Garabedian requested explanation of \$30,000.00 remodeling job suggesting that it not be included in annual budget but be made an operating item for improvements. George Maljanian suggesting putting it into next year's budget. A general discussion followed over costs of remodeling. Nazaret Azarian and Vrej Yapoujian suggested that it be transferred into the Building Fund. Council Chairman Azarian then offered an explanation as to type of remodeling which included enlargement of the hall, additional space for both the Armenian and Sunday schools, kitchen improvements and complete renovation of bathrooms. Harry Tashjian asked about starting date and whether or not it would interfere with the nursery rental. He was informed that the work was scheduled to begin on February 11 and be completed within ten days.

Questions were raised regarding necessity of the expansion and how often we would need so much room. Der Untzag explained that there would be 15 times a year where we would have use for a larger hall. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the needs of the children, loss of their running areas, play areas and the noise factor. Der Untzag commented that at times the parishioners were as noisy as the children. Matthew Tokatlian requested a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss this problem. Mr. Misakian stated that if members wished to add anything to the budget for this purpose it should be brought up under new business. Mrs. Carmen Fuchs and Mr. Carmen Cartiglia each requested that all parents should take care of their own children and control their noisiness.

At this point, Mr. Kalfayan asked that we get along with the financial report.

Mr. Garabedian again questioned remodeling expenses and whether or not proper town authorities, architects and experts had been consulted. Council Chairman Azarian stated that these things had been taken care of and the decision had been made by the Parish Council. Stanley Zysk stated that this was not a new project, having been considered by our previous pastor, Der Levon Arakelian. He added that there are two empty rooms upstairs which could be utilized by the children.

Perry Shegerian moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The motion was seconded by Connie Kasparian.

Mr. Tokatlian gave the Auditing Committee Report which was accepted as read.

Mr. Kapusuzian report the results of the election as follows:

Parish Council: Archie Misakian and Richard Kalfayan were reelected for another term. New members elected were Mrs. Margaret Azarian and Mrs. Connie Kasparian. Vrej Yapoujian was elected as alternate.

Auditing Committee: Nazaret Azarian, Lionel Ketchian and Ralph Trapasso were elected with Matthew Tokatlian as alternate.

Nominating Committee: Peter Kapusuzian and Mrs. Sonia Trapasso were reelected for another term. Mrs. Barbara Ketchian was also elected with Mrs. Eleanor Zysk as alternate.

Assembly Chairman welcomed new business.

Mr. Kalfayan reported that 1988 pledges were being increased in every 3 out of 4 received and that a total of \$11,000.00 had been pledged to date.

Mr. Misakian explained need for increasing Parish Council Members from 7 to 9 and read Section 23 of the By Laws pertaining to same. Mr. Maljanian questioned necessity for increase. Mr. Misakian stated that more attendance was needed at meetings due to illnesses, vacations, etc. There were not enough members available on Sundays as some members would be on the altar during badarak. Mr. Tashjian verified the lack of full attendance at meetings. Mrs. Azarian reported that the Women's Guild faced the same problem and added two members to its executive committee last year. She made a motion to accept the suggestion. Mr. Papazian seconded. The motion was passed to change the number of Parish Council Members from 7 to 9 next year.

Nazaret Azarian reported on the opportunity to purchase additional property adjacent to the church for \$24,000.00. He passed out maps and answered questions. Rose Shegerian questioned road building, usage for parking, etc. Mr. Yapoujian voiced his approval of the purchase. Harry Tarpinian asked for further explanations and future possibilities for its use or resale. Parish Council Chairman stated that the purchase price could be added to the current "open end" mortgage. Mr. Tokatlian asked if anything was in motion to decide what to do with the property. Chairman Azarian stated that when we own it we will consider what to do with it and that we are not planning to do anything with the property at this time. Mr. Trapasso added that the very fact that we have it has to enhance the total value of our property. A question was raised whether the entire assembly would be invited in to discuss future use of the property. Der Untzag and Mr. Misakian replied that the Diocese had to approve the purchase and that the Primate would have the last word.

Mr. Kapusuzian suggested paying dues quarterly rather than at the end of year. A discussion followed. Mr. Misakian stated that everyone would be notified in the next issue of "ANI" as to payment of dues according to the By Laws. Mr. Tokatlian

requested a copy of the By Laws. A motion was made but not seconded to include distribution of By Laws as part of annual dues. Some members thought it should be left up to each individual who wished a copy, others thought it was not a good idea to include it with payment of dues since it would in fact lower the amount of dues collected. Der Untzag ended the discussion by stating that he would make arrangements for purchase and that members could even purchase them directly from the Diocesan Bookstore by sending in \$5.00 per copy.

Mr. Garabedian complained that the exterior maintenance of the church had been neglected. Mr. Misakian informed him that the Council had that under consideration at the present time. Mr. Garabedian felt that rather than spending the \$30,000.00 on the interior, there were certainly things on the outside such as painting, gutters, repairs to sidewalls, etc. which required attention and were certainly as pressing as the work to be done inside. He questioned the Council as to what was going to be done about the outside repairs this year. Mr. Misakian informed him that it was a matter of priorities, such as kitchen improvements, plumbing corrections, etc., and that a committee had not yet been assigned for the outside improvements. A discussion followed regarding actual needs, whether it should be included in the Building Committee expenditures, had additional parking areas been taken into consideration, etc. Mr. Misakian stated that the entire parking lot and driveway were under discussion and that the Council was aware of the problem. Der Untzag added that the Parish Council meets annually to discuss renovations and that all of these points are discussed and will continue to be discussed.

Der Untzag's closing comments included a request for parishioners to come to church at 10:30 a.m. rather than at 11:30 in time for requiem services only. He spoke about the holiness and beauty of our traditions and rites and asked that we love our church as a mother church. He also asked that we first try to learn our own church before criticizing and turning to another.

Der Untzag reported that a meeting of Trumbull Clergy would be held in our church in April.

He gave his thanks to the Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee, Parish Assembly Chairman and Secretary.

Mrs. Kasparian stood and asked that members give Der Untzag a hand stating that he is really a sheperd. The members did so.

A motion was made and seconded to close the Assembly. Der Untzag gave the benediction. The Assembly concluded at 4:10 p.m.

*Dr. Untzag*  
*Pastor*

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicky Tarajian*  
Nicky Tarajian  
Secretary