

Minutes of the 1991 Parish Assembly of the
Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension, Trumbull, CT

The 1991 assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Hall
on February 3, 1991. The meeting opened with prayer by Rev.
Fr. Untzag Nalbandian, Pastor, at 1 pm.

1990 Parish Assem'y Chairman Vrej Yapoujian presided as temp-
orary chairman. He called on Virginia Kalfaian, represent-
ing the Nominating Committee, and Connie Kasparian, Parish
Council Assistant Treasurer, to verify the presence of dues
paid members. Of 137 paid members, 68 were in attendance,
constituting a quorum. Election ballots were distributed
as the roll was called.

Virginia Kalfaian presented a slate of officers for the day:
Mardy Azarian as Chairman, and Richard Kalfaian as Secretary,
and also called for nominations from the floor. Nazareth
Azarian nominated Harry Tarpinian as Chairman, seconded by
Carmen Cartiglia. Voted by show of hands for Chairman and
Mardy was elected. Richard Kalfaian became Secretary uncon-
tested.

Secretary Kalfaian read the minutes of the previous annual
assembly. The minutes were accepted as read. Virginia Kal-
faian requested that the Mas makers referred to in the report
be acknowledged by name. They were Arshaloys Dinihanian and
Felice Avakian.

Chairman Mardy Azarian called on Nominating Committee (Virg-
inia Kalfaian, Sam Agulian, Linda Cartiglia) to conduct
elections for Parish Council, Diocesan Delegate, Nominating
Committee, and Auditing Committee. Sample ballot is en-
closed. Virginia advised members to vote only for the proper
number of candidates - voting in excess would cause the
voter's choices for that office to be voided. Completed
ballots were collected by roll call. The Nominating Commit-
tee and Auditing Committee (Leo Krikorian, Matthew Tokatlian,
and Ralph Trapasso) retired to the conference room to tally
the votes.

In the interim, Der Hayr presented his Pastor's Report in
Armenian then in English. A copy of his report is enclosed.
Der Hayr presented a summary of seven years of purchases and
expenses for religious articles, capital projects, and
maintenance amounting to ~~about~~ \$148,750 with only \$7,150
coming from pledges. The balance came from contributions.
Current renovation of the conference room is donor supported.

Many activities were detailed but Der Hayr stated that the
crowning achievement of the year was the consecration of the
10 new religious paintings and the opening of the Agahigian-
Sherinian Hall and the classrooms with Bishop Aris Shirvanian
of San Francisco presiding. He acknowledged the full support
of the former Primate, Abp. Torkom Manoogian during the paint-
ing project, and good words from Bishop Aris and our new Pri-
mate, Bishop Khajag Barsamian. Der Hayr thanked all donors
and the Parish Councils who supported the project.

Non fulfilled projects were:

- 1) Land survey, due to lack of funds.
- 2) Joint dance with Westchester church (they chose not to pursue yet).
- 3) Young Couples Club

Der Hayr called our attention to the following issues:

- 1) 1991/1992 60th Anniversary plans to burn the mortgage and invite Primate to be present.
- 2) We must start a fund for needy Armenians coming from the Soviet Union as well as other needy families.
- 3) Parish Council has decided that Soviet Armenian families and Armenian nurses and doctors studying at Yale-New Haven would be guests at church functions.
- 4) Dues and pledges should be paid before the end of the year.
- 5) The Parish Priest should be consulted by parishioners before making arrangements for sacraments and funerals so they can be performed in accordance with the canons of the church.

Der Hayr thanked the following:

- 1) Coffee hour sponsors
- 2) Mortgage burning Committee
- 3) Cultural Committee
- 4) Women's Guild officers
- 5) Sunday School
- 6) Armenian School
- 7) Choir, Choir conductor, Deacon, organists
- 8) Parish Council members, especially treasurer Shavarsh Papazian who has saved our church over \$25,000 in the past two years.
- 9) Dr. Berdj Harabedian for twenty years service as our Diocesan Delegate. Der Hayr presented Dr. Harabedian with a book of Armenian Art Treasures. (see note * below)

Next, Parish Council Chairman Margaret Azarian presented her report, a copy of which is enclosed. She detailed problems with drainage and plumbing, fire code compliance and structural repairs which necessitated special requests for funds for maintenance. She encouraged increased pledges to help meet rising costs.

Margaret cited increased church attendance and increased Sunday School and Armenian School enrollment. Two highlights of her year were:

- 1) Attendance at the Diocesan Assembly at Worcester in May for election of Bishop Khajag Barsamian as new Primate.
- 2) The June 3rd consecration of the the religious paintings, two of which were her work.

Margaret thanked her Parish Council for their support and dedicated volunteerism. She recognized Hovig Nalbandian as being the youngest organist in the Armenian churches in America and presented him with a check. Hovig thanked the Parish Council and also recognized the help of Rose Avakian and Virginia Kalfaian.

* Dr. Harabedian acknowledged the recognition and gift in his eloquent and gracious manner.

Secretary Kalfaian read the Auditing Committee report. All records and accounting were found to be in satisfactory order. The Auditing Committee members were Leo Krikorian, Matthew Tokatlian, and Ralph Trapasso.

At this point the Assembly recessed to allow the Nominating and Auditing Committees to finish tallying the ballots, giving the Assembly a chance to study the Treasurer's report/ Also, Der Hayr spoke briefly about the needs of the Soviet Armenian immigrants.

The Nominating Committee returned and election results were reported by Virginia Kalfaian;

Parish Council (5)	
Richard Najarian	57 votes
Shavarsh Papazian	51
Herbert Avakian	43
Thomas Dabakian	41
Vartan Vartanian	31
Vrej Yapoujian	30 (alternate)
Diocesan Delegate (1)	
Connie Kasparian	34 votes
Mardy Azarian	24 (alternate)
Nominating Committee (3)	
Nicky Taraian	43 votes
Sonia Trapasso	42
Sam Agulian	36
Elsie Chaghatzbanian	30
Sara DerMagerdichian	30 (alternate)(Elsie deferred to Sara)
Auditing Committee (3)	
Matthew Tokatlian	49 votes
Ralph Trapasso	40
Bedros Nahabedian	32
Sharyn D'Urso	30 (alternate)

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Shavarsh Papazian reported that driveway and other outside repairs were not taken care of because budgeted amount of \$26,000 was not received. He detailed our problems with the septic system. Within a year, a new septic field on hill in back of property would be required, at a cost of \$35,000-\$40,000. Richard Kalfaian asked if the field would involve any part of the parcel we might be subdividing. Answer to this is unclear until we have survey and topographical map done. Lionel Ketchian asked if we could tie in with town sewers. Apparently sewers in our area are at best five years away even with petition (Shavarsh had said that the Parish Council would initiate a neighborhood petition for sewers).

Young Alex Tokatlian asked if children could donate money to the church. He was told that they could.

Shavarsh pointed out that problem with clogged toilets only occurs on Sundays, caused by our children. They will have to be supervised.

Dr. Harabedian asked why there is no budget for rug sale in 1991. Shavarsh said that Mr. Bashian can no longer provide support personnel and we can't even find people for the job at \$15 per hour. Teresa Harabedian asked if the rug sale is profitable. Shavarsh said that Bashian would not participate in expenses if sales are under \$50,000. Archie Misakian commented that we were digressing from the Treasurer's report. Maureen Najarian moved to accept the report, seconded by Tom Dabakian. Report was accepted unanimously.

Old business:

Ralph Trapasso spoke regarding pew sponsorship, explaining how the program works. \$30,000 would be received with sponsorship of all pew sections at \$350 each. He encouraged sponsorship as a way of "leaving our mark" on the Church.

New business:

Jeni Vartanian reported that Armenian School would donate \$1500 toward the purchase of a computer for the church. Nicky Taraian reported turning over an additional \$205 reserve to new Women's Guild.

Der Untzag thanked Chairman Azarian, Secretary Kalfaian, the Nominating and Auditing Committees for their efforts. He also congratulated all the winners and losers of the elections. The Assembly closed with Der Hayr's benediction at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Kalfaian

Richard D. Kalfaian
Secretary

[Signature]
Hartiros Azarian
Chairman, Parish Assembly

[Signature]
Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor