

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The 1994 Parish Assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Church Hall on January 30, 1994. The meeting opened at 12:45 P.M. with an invocation led by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian.

Mr. Richard Kalfaian, of the Parish Council chaired the meeting until a chairperson was elected from those assembled. The 1993 Parish Assembly Secretary Sharyn N. D'Urso was present to record the opening business until a secretary would be elected for this annual meeting.

Verification of dues-paying members was made by Richard Kalfaian and Sharyn D'Urso as Nicky Taraian read the names. Acting Chairman Richard Kalfaian reported that there are one hundred twenty-four dues paying members of the church. A quorum of forty-seven members were present for the Parish Assembly.

Voting ballots were distributed to all eligible members as their presence at the assembly was determined by roll call. The meeting proceeded with the election of Lionel Ketchian as chairman of the Annual Parish Assembly; Sharyn N. D'Urso was re-elected as the Secretary for the annual meeting.

Salpi Tokatlian from the 1993 Nominating Committee conducted the voting for the 1994 elections. The voting was done by secret ballots.

Having elected the officers for the Annual Parish Assembly, the business of the meeting was undertaken. The 1993 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly were presented by Chairman Lionel Ketchian. A reading of the minutes was waived by voice vote. The minutes were accepted as presented. The minutes were distributed to the members prior to the assembly.

Chairman Lionel Ketchian called upon Salpi Tokatlian of the 1993 Nominating Committee to assist with conducting the 1994 election of members for Parish Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee. A sample ballot is attached to this report as Appendix I.

The first election was the Office of Parish Council. There were seven parish members on the ballot for this position. Three additional members were added by nomination from the floor: Rose Avakian, Virginia Kalfaian and Leo Malkasian. The assembly was directed to vote for only five of the ten nominees. The voters were cautioned that voting for more than five would invalidate the ballot as to the election of parish council members.

The annual assembly next voted for Nominating Committee members. There were six candidates on the ballot; the assembly was directed to vote for only three.

The last voting was conducted for the office of auditing committee. There were six nominees presented on the ballot. Once again, the assembly was directed to vote for only three.

Since two members of the nominating committee were absent from the assembly, Salpi Tokatlian, Connie Kasparian and Vrej Yapoujian joined the auditing committee to count the votes.

The auditing committee adjourned at 1:15 p.m. to tally the votes. The voting was done by secret ballot.

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

While the Auditing Committee retired to the conference room Fr. Untzag Nalbandian presented his report to the Annual Parish Assembly. Der Hyre addressed the Assembly first in Armenian.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian thanked the pledge committee members Richard Kalfaian, Nicky Taraian and Vrej Yapoujian for their effort to secure pledges from the congregation. Pledging has been modest from parishioners. The result is ongoing requests for donations to fund programs and meet expenses for building and grounds maintenance. This creates a continuing anxiety for Parish Council members who are responsible for the budget, and the pastor as well.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian remarked that we are a relatively small congregation, which in 1993 accomplished a varied agenda of major church activities with a laudable amount of success. Fr. Nalbandian highlighted some of the major activities of the parish:

- a. The first Mardi-Gras, a mini-bazaar, was held in February and resulted in a profit for the one day event.

Also in February, a group of more than twenty parishioners led by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian travelled to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate. The small but vocal group of parishioners joined many other parish groups in the event, bringing attention to and raising political support for the critical issues facing Armenia.

- b. Seta Toroyan was the keynote speaker at the Michink Dinner in March.
- c. Our Martyrs were remembered on Armenian Martyrs Day in April. A Madagh dinner was held. The guest speaker was Eva Medzorian of Boston, Massachusetts.
- d. In May, parishioners held a farewell reception for one of our Deacons, Thomas Dabakian and his family.
- e. In June 1993, Fr. Untzag Nalbandian received a Master's Degree in Religious Studies at the University of Sacred Heart. A graduation party was organized by members of the parish to celebrate the achievement and show support for the Der Hyre's continuing professional growth.
- f. Fr. Nalbandian made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. This was his first visit to the Holy City. He thanked the Parish Assembly for supporting his desire to make the journey and expressed his gratitude to everyone for this personal and professional experience. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian also extended his thanks to the Primate for the opportunity to complete graduate study and

the Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. At a pre-bazaar dinner, the Der Hyre spoke about his experiences on the Pilgrimage and narrated a video about the visit.

- g. Also in October, Nazareth and Margaret Azarian shared a video and spoke about their experiences during their visit to Armenia.
- h. The Mt. Ararat Bazaar was held the first weekend in November. It was a successful bazaar and netted a profit of over \$16,000.00.
- i. The Women's Guild held their Annual Assembly and Elections on Dec. 5, 1993. This is a dedicated group of women. Der Hyre asked for a greater participation by the women in the church to increase the membership of this important group. The parish continues to sponsor and support a wide range of activities surround the religious, cultural, social and educational aspects of our parish community. A complete listing is attached to the minutes and incorporated by reference.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian discussed the numerous and varied activities he presides over as parish priest, the details of which are in his 1993 report to the parish. One new activity that is likely to become an annual event was the Christmas Caroling. The demand for the ACYOA Jrs. was more than the group could accommodate. They have already committed to return engagement next year for this fund-raiser.

The church remains dedicated to help relieve the suffering of those in the Motherland. With the assistance of the "Help Armenia" Committee, the parish raised over \$11,000.00. With this money five orphans were adopted by our parish, twenty-five were adopted by the Norfield Congregational Parish and the rest of the money was sent to the Diocese to be used for Armenia. It is the desire and intent of the parish to continue to support these families while continuing to adopt more.

In addition, church members contributed to two containers of clothes and food which were sent to Armenia. Our parish and the extended community generously supported this humanitarian effort.

Discussing some of the business and administrative aspects in his report, Fr. Untzag Nalbandian remarked that over sixty families donated \$5,000.00 for the new parish car. The land survey is almost complete at a cost of \$7,500.00 and the mortgage payments will be reduced from \$1,040.00 to \$460.00 as a result of refinancing.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian set out his goals for 1994 which include increasing membership, continuing involvement of the youth, and increasing the number and amount of pledges.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian concluded this report by thanking everyone for their generous contribution of time, talent and financial support which kept all organizations alive, including the publication of the bi-monthly parish newsletter, the ANI.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Richard Najarian made the report for the Parish Council. He noted the challenge to administer to the need of the church. Mr. Najarian cited his personal growth and development of his administrative skills. The most difficult task for the parish council is to meet the financial commitments of the church. He encouraged people to pay their pledges and increase pledging. A new card system is being inaugurated to assist accounting for dues paid members. Mr. Najarian stated that if the church and church programs were properly supported by pledging, the Der Hyre would be able to focus on the pastoral needs of the parish.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER AND AUDITING COMMITTEE

Matthew Lokatlian, representing the auditing committee presented the committee's report. The report was accepted by the assembly as read. Treasurer, Shavarsh Papazian reported to the Parish Assembly. He remarked that the financial needs of the church over the years, but is not reflected in the amount of pledges. He called upon parishioners to consider pledging in recognition of today's financial obligations in order to operate the church and fund church programs. (Shavarsh Papazian and Richard Najarian worked with Fr. Untzag Nalbandian to refinance the mortgage, thereby reducing monthly payments from \$1,040.00 to \$460.00. The principle of the new mortgage is \$50,000.00 amortized over fifteen years at the commercial loan rate of seven and one-half percent. The 1994 budget was presented to the assembly and passed by unanimous vote.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian commented about this parish's tradition of giving year-end donations from the individual church groups. At this meeting, the Women's Guild was thanked for presenting \$2,000 to the church and the Church Choir donated \$1,000.00 which was received with gratitude by the Der Hyre, and the ACYOA Jrs. \$300.00.

ELECTION RESULTS

Parish Council

Garo Garabedian	44 votes	elected
Nikki Taraian	40 votes	elected
Margaret Azarian	34 votes	elected
Darwin Jamgochian	33 votes	elected
Elsie Chaghatzbanian	31 votes	elected
Richard Kalfaian	29 votes	alternate

Nominating Committee

Malanie Donoian	32 votes	elected
Elenor Zysk	29 votes	elected
Harry Tashjian	27 votes	elected
Sharyn N. D'Urso	26 votes	alternate

Auditing Committee

Matthew Tokatlian	31 votes	elected
Archie Misakian	30 votes	elected
Leo Krikorian	22 votes	Alt.
Ralph Trapasso	22 votes	Elected

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing was added at the call for old business, these issues having been covered in prior reports.

NEW BUSINESS

REPORT OF KHACHKAR MONUMENT

A memorial in memory of the martyrs and survivors will be erected on the small "green" in the parking lot. The proposed location has high visibility. Dr. Berdj Harabedian and Berch Khachadourian are the co-chairmen of this committee. Berch Khachadourian, was asked to make a personal request to the Parish Assembly for donations for this important project. Mr. Khachadourian spoke about the project. A plaque will be placed in the church hall to recognize the donors. Funds will be raised in two categories: Benefactors who donate a minimum of at least \$1,000.00 and donors who donate at least \$100.00. The success of this project is anticipated. The monument will be approximately three feet wide and five feet high and ten inches thick.

VINYL SIDING

Richard Najarian reported that the exterior of the building is in need of maintenance. Quotes have been received for both painting and vinyl siding. It has been decided by the Parish Council that the wood clapboard siding is not in good condition for painting. This decision was based upon information considered by parish council members relying upon the opinion of those contractors who assessed the needs of the church building. Although painting is less expensive for a short term solution, it was decided that the cost effective approach in terms of both time and money was to have the building vinyl sided. Several quotes have been received for vinyl siding.

The quote from Godro Siding, Inc. was presented to the Parish Assembly as the recommended contractor for the work. The quoted

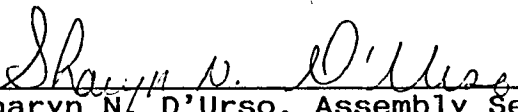
price to side the church is \$17,300.00. This price covers siding the wood clapboard with vinyl and includes gutters and leaders. It does not include either the steeple or the front columns. The brick front will not be disturbed. The payments would be made in equal one thirds.

A first motion to vinyl side the church using Godro Siding, Inc. was carried by a majority of those present, by hand count. A second motion was made requesting each family to contribute \$100.00 for this project, conditioned upon the fact that they could afford the donation. This motion also was carried by a hand vote. Donations were requested to be made by the end of February,


No other business being presented, Archie Misakian motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

The Assembly was closed by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian's prayer at around 3:30 P.M.

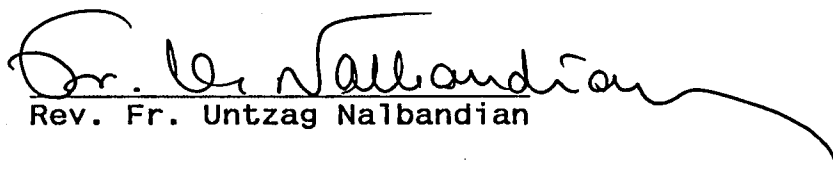
Respectfully submitted



Sharyn N. D'Urso, Assembly Secretary



Lionel Ketchian, Assembly Chairman



Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian