

MINUTES OF THE 1996 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The 1996 Parish Assembly was held in the Agahigian-Sherinian Church Hall on January 28, 1996. The meeting commenced at 12:45 p.m. with an invocation led by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian. Mark Gavoor, chairman of the 1995 Parish Assembly, opened the business meeting.

Elsie Chaghazbanian reported that there were One Hundred Three (103) members who had paid their dues and, therefore, were eligible to vote during the assembly. The number was, thereafter, amended to One Hundred Nine (109) paid members.

By roll call, Mrs. Chaghazbanian verified that there were forty-eight dues-paid members present. A quorum of one third of the membership or Thirty-seven (37) eligible voters were present.

Mark Gavoor and Sharyn D'Urso were nominated respectively as chairman and secretary for the 1996 Annual Assembly and received the unanimous vote of the membership for these positions.

The Minutes of the 1995 Parish Assembly which had been earlier distributed for review to the voting membership, were accepted by the assembly without corrections or additions. Maureen Najarian moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Harry Tarpinian seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Fr. Nalbandian gave special thanks to members of the nominating committee, Garo Garabedian, Marie Yapoujian and Mark Gavoor for their commitment and generous time devoted to their task as the nomination committee members. Harry Tashian was appointed by the assembly to assist the nominating committee with elections in place of Mark Gavoor who was chairing the assembly.

A second roll call was made before the assembly; Garo Garabedian and Marie Yapoujian passed out the ballots to those responding. A sample ballot is appended hereto as Exhibit I.

The first slate of nominations on the ballot was for the office of parish council. There were seven names of parish members presented on the printed ballot for this position. Solicitations were requested from the floor for additional nominations. The names of Archie Misakian, Randy Sapah-Gulian, and Marie Yapoujian were added to the ballot to complete the slate of ten nominees.

The voting members were directed to vote for only five on the candidates of the slate for parish council, and were cautioned that voting for more than five members would invalidate their ballot as to the election of parish council members.

The remainder of the voting ballot was reviewed. Voting members were directed to vote for three of the five candidates for the nominating committee and three members for the auditing committee.

The chairman of the assembly, Mark Gavoor, was thanked for his leadership.

The assembly adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Garo Garabedian and Marie Yapoujian passed out the ballots to those responding. A sample ballot is appended hereto as Exhibit I.

The completed ballots were collected by roll call; members of the nominating committee retired to tally the votes. The meeting continued with Fr. Untzag Nalbandian addressing the parish assembly.

(The Reports of all Groups summarized in the minutes are appended hereto as exhibits)

REPORT OF THE PARISH PRIEST

Fr. Nalbandian welcomed everyone present and extended his thanks to all parishioners who support the work of the church. Der Hyre discussed the scope of his work throughout the year as pastor. Included among his pastoral duties were four weddings, four funerals and five baptisms. Fr. Nalbandian reported that his duties carry beyond the parish to the Diocese in New York and interfaith meetings in Connecticut, by example.

Fr. Nalbandian highlighted some of the church events and activities, noting that the parish is very busy throughout the year--a complete list of church activities is included in the Pastor's Report appended hereto.

Regarding the Motherland and the Armenian Fund, it is projected that Armenia will need additional support from the Diaspora for the next twenty-five years. Fr. Nalbandian cited the commitment of time and generosity of parishioners as "points of light" for the church.

- * Kim Kasparian and Elisa Griego went to Armenia as part of an outreach program to the Motherland;
- * David Dikranian attended the Diocesan Internship program;
- * Mary Day McGregor became one of the youngest organists playing at Sunday Badarak;
- * Nancy Quinn and Heather Tarpinian became very active bringing their youth and energy to serve the church

Stating that there are many ways to serve the church, Fr. Nalbandian thanked Nicky Taraian for her leadership on the 1995 Pledge Committee which group generated over Twenty-four Thousand (\$24,000.00) Dollars in pledges. The suggested minimum pledge was Three Hundred (\$300.00) Dollars. Fr. Nalbandian was pleased to announce that fifty-seven parishioners had given at least the minimum pledge requested--encouraging everyone to pledge at least the suggested minimum.

The Pastor meets on a regular basis with all church organizations. He held a joint meeting with the Women's Guild and Parish Council to propose that every effort be made to "burn the mortgage". His proposal received the unanimous support of these two groups. From September 1995 until January 1996, over Twenty-seven Thousand (\$27,000) Dollars had been pledged to pay off the mortgage balance and many parishioners had already fulfilled their commitment.

Der Hyre cited Margaret Manugian as the first person to pledge toward the mortgage burning. He acknowledge her as someone who consistently provides an inspiration to everyone by her

example of generosity-- giving of her time as well as financial support to the church.

Fr. Nalbandian reported that Judy Gavor and Heather Tarpinian co-chaired the Armenian Monument Project. A monument will be erected with the inscription of the Armenian Alphabet. This project, dedicated to the youth of our church, was received with enthusiasm and support. Although committee members originally sought Ten One Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) donors, Twelve parishioners had subscribed to fund the monument for this amount as of the date of the parish assembly.

Der Hyre emphasized that the majority of money from fund raising goes to support the building and grounds of the church. The best way to fund the church budget is through increasing individual pledging.

Fr. Nalbandian took a survey of church records which demonstrate that over a nine month period in 1995, an average of sixty-seven people attended church every Sunday.

Der Hyre stated his motto for 1996: See the good, and reach out for the youth of our church. Among the many things on his "to do" list as parish priest, he has establish a top priority: to inspire and include the young people in this ethnic community to participate in all parish activities. He noted that there are between 800-900 Armenians souls which need to be reached in the area. Fr. Untzag complimented parishioners for consistently demonstrating that whatever they want to do, can be accomplished.

He cited the many instances where the activities and commitment of our young parishioners and their parents or children, demonstrated that there is hope for our ethnic community to continue to serve and promote the church and our culture. On a broader horizon, he reminded us that two major events are on our calendar: In the year 2001, Armenians will celebrate becoming a Christian nation, and our church will also celebrate the Coming of Christ.

In conclusion, Der Hyre gave thanks to the membership for continuing and increasing financial support, to all committee members for their service and especially to Parish Council officers. Garo Garabedian was presented with the Holy Bible to honor him for six years of service on parish council.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Nominating Committee returned with the election results as follows:

Parish Council:	Elected	Votes
	Richard Najarian	42
	Elsie Chaghatzbanian	40
	Maureen Najarian	34
	Darwin Jamgochian	31
	Heather Tarpinian	29
	Elisa Griego, alternate	23
	Harry Magazian, alternate	23

Nominating Committee:	Elected	Votes
	Nicky Taraian	33
	Herbert Avakian	32
	Connie Kasparian	24
	Sara DerMegerdichian, alt.	22

Auditing Committee

Mark Gavoor	29
Mardy Azarian	28
Matthew Tokatlian	28
Ralph Trapasso, alt.	22

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Gary Donoian, chairman of Parish Council, characterized 1995 as a year of transition. He thanked Margaret Azarian, Garo Garabedian and Nicky Taraian for their dedication and commitment to the work of the church as their term of service was expiring. Chairman Donoian took critical note of the many successes during the church year including the Annual Banquet, 1995 Picnic and 1995 Mt. Ararat Bazaar. The social and financial success of these activities was accomplished by the dedication of parishioners who generously gave both their time and monetary support. Chairman Donoian also applauded the many activities which attract parishioners to the programs. In addition to the long, detailed activity list in the Pastor's Report, Chairman Donoian reported that the land sale (rear lot of church property) was progressing. He commented that there is broad support among parishioners for preserving this asset for future generations by converting the proceeds from a sale into a restricted endowment fund. Chairman Donoian also cited the increases in pledging as a measure of success, support and commitment from the parish community for the church and its programs.

ACYOA REPORT

ACYOA members gave a brief statement of their activities which are detailed in Chairman Maral Nalbandian's report. They reported a successful year. The ACYOA Juniors ended their year with a positive bank balance. They made their final payment toward the group's pledge for the Khachker monument and begin the new year with a generous balance in their bank account. Officers Maral Nalbandian, Hovig Nalbandian and Aram Gavoor made a special presentation to their advisor Kim Kasparian for her many hours of service and dedication to them and their activities.

1995 BAZAAR TREASURER'S REPORT

Nazareth Azarian reported on the income and expenses of the annual bazaar. His figures were reviewed by Matthew Tokatlian of the Auditing Committee and were accepted as presented.

It was noted at this time that all of the food for the Parish Assembly had been prepared and donated. Nancy Quinn, Pearl Katchadorian, Melanie Donoian, Sara DerMegerdichian and Margaret Manugian were thanked for their donation of time in preparing and funding the food for this assembly.

LADIES GUILD REPORT

The Ladies Guild reported that once again it closed its books with a positive balance. From this account, One Thousand Dollars (1,000.00) was transferred to the Mortgage Burning Fund and One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) was designated to the general church fund.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Darwin Jamgochian gave the report as treasurer of the parish. He submitted a proposed budget for 1996, showing income and disbursements for 1995. The hand-out for this report also included a graph showing the sources of income by percentage in a "pie" shaped diagram. A suggestion was made for over/under columns. The proposed budget was distributed to assembly members. A motion which would have required line item reporting for clergy expenses was defeated 8-16-7.

The recommendation by Parish Council for an increase in the pastor's annual stipend was presented to the Assembly and approved unanimously. The increase is from \$28,160.00 to \$29,000.00.

A net profit of Thirty-one Hundred Dollars (\$3,100.00) was reported for the annual picnic. Income was generated from food, the pastry sale and raffle. The picnic was both a social and financial success.

There was general discussion of the budget. The 1996 budget includes increases in proposed pledges to \$30,000.00.

Connie Kasparian suggested a more detailed bookkeeping system that could more effectively reflect accounting for a budget in excess of \$100,000.00. A second proposal was made for having someone assist the treasurer with data entries. During discussion of the latter, Treasurer Jamgochian among others, stated his objection to bifurcating the treasurer's duties. A motion was made to institute a bookkeeping system on the computer while maintaining a hard copy. The motion also provided that a group of volunteers would assist the treasurer with data entries. The motion was defeated 12-14-5. Regarding the first part of the motion, Treasurer Jamgochian stated the accounting was already computerized. He offered to copy his files onto

the church computer so that any authorized parishioner could have immediate access.

1996 PLEDGE DRIVE

Nicky Taraian reported that she had received almost 8,000.00 in pledges for 1996, and that people were enthusiastic about making a pledge commitment.

REPORT ON LAND SALE

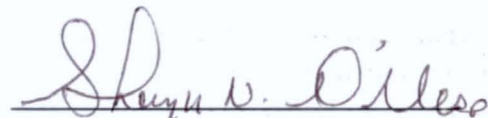
Gary Donoian reported that there was progress with the land sale. He proposed that the proceeds from the sale should go to establish a restricted endowment account. His suggestion was warmly received by the assembly.

Archie Misakian call for a special assembly to discuss the disposition of the land sale proceeds. This suggestion was approved without vote. Kim Kasparian commented that the land is a valuable asset to the church. She noted that liquidating the land to establish an endowment fund for the church would be a long term benefit to the church since it would preserve the principal of the asset while generating interest income.

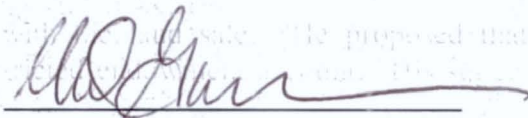
The land sale discussion brought the meeting to a close. A motion was made and unanimously accepted to adjourn the business meeting.

Fr. Untzag Nalbandian gave the Benediction.

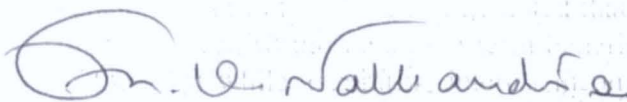
Respectfully Submitted,



Sharyn N. D'Urso, 1996
Parish Assembly Secretary



Mark Gavoor
1996 Parish Assembly Chairman



Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian