

MINUTES OF THE 1998 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension held its Annual Parish Assembly Sunday February 1, 1998. The meeting opened at 1:00 p.m. with an invocation by Fr. Untzag Nalbandian. Mark Gavoor, Chairman of the 1997 Parish Assembly, opened the business meeting.

Margaret Azarian read the roll resulting in 54 eligible voting members present out of 109 dues paid members representing a legal quorum for the assembly.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE DAY: *Two nominations for Chairman of the Day came from the floor namely Mark Gavoor nominated by Maureen Najarian and seconded; Archie Misakian nominated by Mardy Azarian and seconded. A vote of hands resulted in Mark Gavoor being elected Chairman of the Day.*

Two nominations for Secretary of the day came from the floor, namely Margaret Azarian and Heather Tarpinian, both seconded. A vote of hands resulted in Margaret Azarian being elected Secretary of the Day.

Mark Gavoor motioned that Der Hyre's report be given to the assembly prior to the election of the Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee members. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Archie Misakian motioned to dispense with reading the minutes. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Archie Misakian motioned that the minutes be approved as presented. Seconded and passed unanimously.

PASTOR'S REPORT: *Der Hyre spoke briefly in Armenian then proceeded to give his report in English.*

Fr. Nalbandian welcomed everyone to the 67th Annual Parish Assembly in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, our Diocese and the 1997 Parish Council.

He reported that he was starting his 15 th year of service at Holy Ascension and that 1997 was one of the most successful and busiest years for our church.

Der Hyre went through the calendar, month by month, explaining all the religious, cultural, educational and social activities that transpired during the year. These functions were exclusive of his 51 Badaraks (Liturgy) 49 of which were on Sundays, sermons as well as 6 baptisms, 2 weddings, 4 funerals in our church plus participating or attending 7 funerals and 4 weddings outside Holy Ascension.

Most of his administrative and pastoral paper work was done with his secretary through the church office twice a week.

In addition, Der Hyre, gathered information, edited and published the "ANI" newsletter bimonthly. He mentioned here that he is looking for an editor, who has the ability and time to do what he is doing to get the newsletter published on time.

Der Hyre stressed during the year he was so busy, at times not knowing to which to give priority. He attended parish meetings, and regional meetings at the Diocese, St. Nersess Seminary in New York and New Jersey.

He also gave lectures at St. Vartan Camp and St. Nersess Seminary. He participated in the 82nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide commemorative event at the State Capitol in Hartford. He attended Fr. Buttero's funeral in New Britain, a special conference and lecture series on Yeghishe' Charentz, a great Armenian poet and writer, at Columbia University.

Beside all the above, he was able to accept and attend most graduations, birthdays, anniversaries, parties whenever he or Yeretzgin and him were invited, bringing the church blessings to them.

Some items were purchased for the church, namely:

- ▶ *A new copying machine donated by Harry & Heather Tarpinian and the Women's Guild.*
- ▶ *A new scanner donated by Dr. & Mrs. Berdj Harabedian.*
- ▶ *The choir bought a new synthacizer, of which \$300.00 was donated by choir members, Gladys Jevanjian, Virginia Kalfaian and Eleanor Zysk.*

- ▶ *A used display case was purchased by the Women's Guild to exhibit and sell Armenian souvenirs.*
- ▶ *New Badarak books will be purchased in April. Donors are Archie Misakian & Lisa Misakian in memory of their wife and mother Helen Misakian. Salpi Tokatlian is making a similar gift in memory of her parents Arousiag and Yervant Barsoumian.*
- ▶ *A new religious painting donated by Andrew Taraian and Nicky Taraian, in memory of their son and nephew Mark Taraian as well as their parents Sarkis and Marisa Taraian will be hung and consecrated soon*
- ▶ *Another painting donated by Andrew Topalian, in memory of his mother Aghavni Topalian, will be commissioned soon .*
- ▶ *"Endowment Funds" of a minimum of \$5,000.00 each were established in our church. The first donor was Sara DerMegerdichian and her family established in the name of "Kevork & Zarouhy Der Magrdichian."*
- ▶ *Sharyn D'Urso is donating a new hand cross to our church in memory of her mother Aroxie Margossian D'Urso.*
- ▶ *Elisa and Paul Marottolo promising to donate the construction and installation of a new front sign for our church in memory of Aghavni Topalian.*
- ▶ *Leo and Mary Krikorian for donating their Bazaar Raffle Prize, a CD/Cassette recorder to the church.*

Thanks went to Mardy Azarian and Richard Khachian for donating their services through their companies for the church when called upon. Richard Kalfaian, taking and donating pictures for publication. Also, to all involved in helping purchase new & used items.

The pledge system is a success. The church surpassed itself in pledges. For the first time its history, \$45,000,00 was pledged of which \$43,000.00 has been collected to date. Approximately one hundred - twenty five families pledged in 1997. This pledge system is the solution to our financial needs.

Some renovations costing \$15,000.00 was done without outside fund-raising as promised.

Der Hyre spoke about all the regular committees as well as the temporary committees doing a great job.

Fr. Untzag spoke about our latest teen organist, John McGann, Jr. and how pleased he was and how blessed our church was in having his services; our new Choir Conductor, Elisa Griego and the new Armenian Village dance teacher, Judy Gavoor.

Special mention was made today about Margaret Azarian resigning from the position of Church Secretary as of April 1, 1998. Her tenure was approximately 7 years. Heather Tarpinian from the parish council will fill in during April and May and in September will become a paid secretary. Her work days will be announced later.

LAND SALE: *The money is not in yet. When received, the interest from the investment alone will be used.*

NEEDY FUND: *Money was used from this fund to adopt 2 orphans in Armenia affiliated with CASP. Also, a cancer patient in St. Petersburg, Russia was helped. This is an ongoing fund and Der Hyre urged people to donate so this type of help can continue.*

SCHOLARSHIPS: *Holy Ascension awarded \$1,000.00 in scholarships.*

TIME CAPSULE: *The Town of Trumbull, for its 1997 Bicentennial celebration requested a written statement from Fr. Untzag about Holy Ascension to be placed in the time capsule. He submitted a report and it was buried in the Time Capsule that will be opened in 100 years.*

Those interested in visiting the site of the commemorative monument, it is located next to the Trumbull Library.

Der Hyre also talked briefly about the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service we participate in every year, the Trumbull Interfaith Committee of which we are a member and their blood drive. Richard and

Maureen Najarian helped by donating sandwiches in the name of our church. We hope to host a blood drive in our church.

1997 SPECIAL PARISH ASSEMBLY: *One issue was discussed. The leveling part of the back land for playground, picnics and other events. The Parish Council requested that the assembly approve this project. After a lengthy discussion, it was approved almost unanimously. Funds were not to come from the parish treasury or from fund raising projects as promised. It was decided that the Parish Council will work on securing the necessary funds.*

Der Hyre reported happily that someone did come forward. He said "God has taken care of us."

PARKING LOT REPAIR: *The approximate cost will be \$50,000.00. Der Hyre solicited funds from the Lindy Foundation. They replied in the negative. He informed the assembly that sewers will be coming to our area soon, therefore, it will be practical to wait until they are installed to repave the parking lot.*

The year promises to be full of special events including the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of our Diocese and the visitation of Karekin Catholicos I.

Speaking of anniversaries, he mentioned this year is the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Order of Priesthood.

Der Hyre gives thanks to God to all who supported our church through their generosity and service. He concluded with special thanks to the Parish Council members and especially to Maureen Najarian for her support, hardworking, positive chairmanship. Also, to Darwin Jamgochian, the church treasurer, for excellent record keeping.

ELECTIONS: *Nominating Committee Members were Pearl Khachadourian, Nicky Taraian and Salpi Tokatlian. Nicky Taraian explained that the slate for Parish Council needed four more names. Nominations were taken from the floor and seconded. Nominations were closed. The following names were added to the parish council slate: Armand Dikranian, Haig Dikranian, Harry Tarpinian and Stanley Zysk. The voting proceeded according to the by-laws. The Nominating Committee and the Auditing Committee retired to a separate area to count the ballots.*

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: *Maureen Najarian reported her pleasure in working with this council and Der Hyre. She stressed that council members were active in many areas of church work: Narthex area during Sunday Service, coffee hours, members of several committees, church anniversary banquet, representation at the Diocesan Assembly, representation at the State Capitol for the observation of the Armenian Genocide, church picnic, church bazaar, chairing many bazaar sub-committees, etc. Maureen organized a tea with a spiritual theme of "Renewal, Restoration and Revitalization."*

The church waterproofing project was completed and hopefully will resolve the water problem.

She mentioned that the 1998 budget is ready for approval today. She thanked Darwin Jamgochian for doing his job well. Also, as of Jan. 28, 1998, 93% of the money pledged was collected. The remainder is expected to come in.

Other avenues of income are being looked into and suggestions are welcomed. She thanked all council members for making her job easier.

In conclusion, she encouraged all to help fulfill part of the Primate's four year plan to bring us into the new century by preaching the Word of God and news of salvation.

AUDITING REPORT: *Committee members Mardy Azarian, Nazareth Azarian and Matthew Tokatlian. Mardy Azarian spoke for the committee stating that they audited the church books with Treasurer, Darwin Jamgochian. The members of the committee all agreed that the Treasurer properly recorded all transactions and that the report accurately reflects the 1997 financial transactions of the church. Motion to approve Auditing Committee's report by Heather Tarpinian, seconded by Herbert Avakian. Passed unanimously.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Darwin Jamgochian submitted a proposed budget for 1998. General budget discussions followed. Motion to approve 1998 budget as stated by Heather Tarpinian, seconded by Herbert Avakian, passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Maureen Najarian opened a discussion about installing new carpeting in the church hall. Discussion ensued regarding carpeting vs. tile. Archie Misakian motioned to gather a committee to detail it out then present it to the Parish Council to decide the outcome. Seconded by Harry Tarpinian. Passed unanimously.

Archie Misakian expressed his thanks to Der Hyre, Parish Council, Deacons, Acolytes, Altar Servers, Choir Director and organists for their dedicated service week after week. Archie feels it's the best in the Diocese.

Der Hyre announced that our church will be closed May 10, 1998 due to Catholicos Karekin I celebrating Badarak at St. Vartan's Cathedral that day.

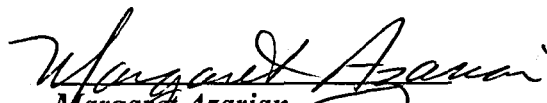
ELECTION RESULTS:

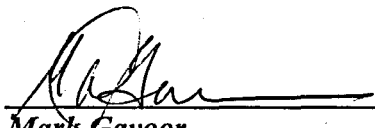
<u>PARISH COUNCIL</u>	<u>VOTES</u>	<u>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Richard Najarian	53	Nicky Taraian	38
Maureen Najarian	52	Pearl Khachadoorian	31
Darwin Jamgochian	47	Sharyn D'Urso	25
Heather Tarpinian	46	Salpi Tokatlian	24-Alt
Scott Paklaian	41		
Vartan Tarpinian	37		
Sarkis Kaolian	33		
Harry Magazian	26-Alt.		
Elisa Griego	24-Alt.		

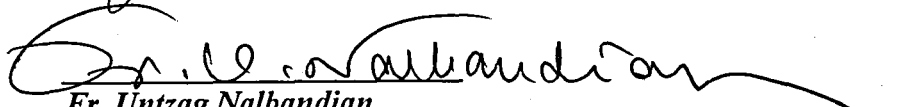
<u>AUDITING COMMITTEE</u>	<u>VOTES</u>
Mark Gavor	31
Ralph Trapasso	24-Alt.

Mark Gavor, Chairman of the Day, adjourned the meeting. Der Hyre gave the benediction at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret Azarian
1998 Parish Assembly Secretary


Mark Gavor
1998 Parish Assembly Chairman


Fr. Untzag Nalbandian
Pastor