

**PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1997**

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Bruce Ballard, chairman of the 1996 Assembly.

Verification of Eligible Voters: Fifty-one (51) members registered. At the time the voting took place, sixty-seven (67) had signed in.

Election of Assembly Officers: Richard Shakarjian was elected chairman and Betty Boyajian, secretary. Der Paree opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the 1996 Assembly: Approved as submitted.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Vaughn Hoplamazian asked for nominations from the floor. Aram Fayda and Vahe Soghomonian were added to the list of candidates for Parish Council. There being no other additions, nominations were closed. The candidates were introduced to the Assembly. Recess for lunch.

The meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m., at which time official ballots were distributed. Voting was done by roll call. Sixty-three (63) persons voted.

Pastor's Report: Der Paree's report was accepted with appreciation. As part of his report, Der Paree proposed a Mission State-ment for the church and suggested that it be officially adopted. Discussion followed. It was suggested that before adopting a Mission Statement for our church, the Parish Council to inquire the Diocese about the existence of such a statement and report its findings to the 1998 Parish Assembly.

Parish Council Report: Parish Council report was accepted as written and an additional comment was made stating that in 1996, donations placed in the box in the Narthex for orphans in Armenia totalled approximately \$400.00. The Parish Council used the money to adopt two orphans.

Financial Report: The Financial Report was discussed at length and there was a discussion regarding the rental of Hayatian Hall to non-church members. The chairman of the Hall Rental Committee reminded the Assembly that at a previous Assembly approval was given to rent the hall to Armenians, only, with priority given to church members.

The Special In/Out Wash Account was discussed at length. It was recom-mended that future reports be more specific about the names of certain entries, rather than using initials.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Proposed Budget for 1977, in the amount of \$288,948.00. Motion carried.

Report from the Permanent Endowment Fund: Appendix A (attached) Correction in the 1966 Contributions to the PEF Core Fund - it should read Z. Meguerian not A. Meguerian.

As of 12/31/96, the Permanent Endowment Fund was valued at \$1,182,965.00.

Comments and discussion followed:

- In order to get an even better return, it was suggested that PEF survey the investments to see if it would be advisable to put all money in Mutual Funds. Response: Since the goal of the PEF is to maintain principle--and Mutual Funds fluctuate--it could be risky.
- A recommendation was made that distribution of monies for youth activities be publicized, so that parishioners will know how the money is spent.
- Campground Fund #1 continues to grow because the interest earned is re-invested. The Parish Assembly was asked for permission to find a way to untap the increasing growth, and establish a systematic program to allocate the funds responsibly. Discussion followed. Motion was made and seconded that the Parish Council and PEF Committee be authorized to look into a way to use all Campground Funds (#1 & #2) interests and present a formula to use the growth in the Fund, which would be done on special request by the Parish Council to the Parish Assembly. Motion carried.
- New members on the PEF Committee are Jane Keytanjian and Kevin Leszczynski.

Reports of Organizations: Questions and/or comments were invited as the Reports were reviewed. The reports were accepted as presented.

Diocesan Assembly: The Chairman thanked the entire Parish for its support in making the Assembly a successful and memorable one.

Women's Guild Gift Certificate Program: The committee has paid off its original loan from the Parish Council, and now the net income is all profit. It was requested that the program be publicized in Armenian in the MER DOON and Sunday Bulletins, so that our Armenian-speaking membership can become aware of an support it.

A question was raised about the policy regarding organizations giving a percent of their money to the church at the end of the year. When an organization is requested to prepare its Annual Report, it is notified of its assessment, if any. The Parish Council Treasurer should follow up.

New Business: Suren Pakhtigian reported on the findings of the Special Task Forces appointed by the Parish Council, as mandated by the 1996 Assembly. Recommendations were presented to the Parish Council regarding:

- Membership/Pledges/Dues
- Christian Education
- Participation
- Recent Immigrants
- Communication
- Organizations within the Church

The first item was addressed by the Parish Council at a Special Parish Assembly which convened in January 1977. The recommendation was to maintain the present dues; with annual dues for college students at \$52.00, and special provisions for hardship cases to be reviewed by the Pastor and Parish Council Chairman. The recommendation was put in the form of a motion, seconded and carried.

Election Results:

PARISH COUNCIL (6 elected)

Elizabeth Barsamian	(51)	Ayshe Chakmaklian	(45)
Alicia Dakerian Craig	(50)	Dearon Mazmanian	(35)
Melcom Avrigian	(48)	Lisa Kazanjian	(32)

Alternates

Aram Fayda	(29)	Andrew Keleshian	(19)
Aris Topakbashian	(28)	Richard Melikian	(5)
Vahe Soghomonian	(26)		

AUDITING COMMITTEE (1 elected)

Edward Kazanjian (34)

Alternate

Daniel C. Takoushian (29)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3 elected)

Alma Alabilikian-Paone	(52)
Carol Leszczynski	(49)
Silva Kailian	(37)

Alternates

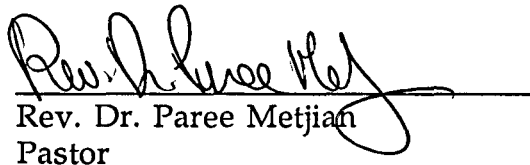
Janet Soghomonian (32)

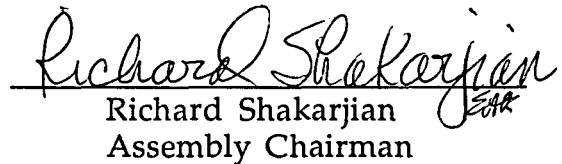
Michael Ayjian (18)

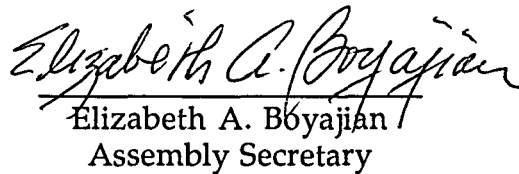
Closing Remarks: Der Patee thanked the membership for their input, and the Assembly Chairman, Secretary, Nominating and Auditing Committees and church organizations for their contributions. He congratulated and welcomed the newly elected members and reminded everyone that as we move forward, we must adjust to the changing times, and actively contribute to the Parish as plans are made for the growth and the future of our church.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rev. Dr. Patee Metjian
Pastor


Richard Shakarjian
Assembly Chairman


Elizabeth A. Boyajian
Assembly Secretary