

ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH
1998 PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1998

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Papken Megerian, Parish Council Chairman.

Verification of Eligible Voters: Sixty-four (64) members registered. At the time voting took place sixty-five (65) had signed in.

Der Paree opened the meeting with prayer.

Election of Assembly Officers: Steven Barsamian was elected chairman and Betty Boyajian, secretary of the assembly.

Minutes of the 1997 Assembly: Accepted as submitted. Two minor numerical corrections were accepted to change the year from 1966 to 1996 and to 1997.

A motion was made that the report of the Permanent Endowment Fund be presented after the Nominating Committee Report. The motion was approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Carol Leszczynski read the names of the candidates for Parish Council, Nominating Committee and Auditing Committee. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Alice Arakelian was appointed to count ballots in the absence of Alma Alabilikian, a member of the Nominating Committee. Official ballots were distributed. Voting was done by roll call.

Permanent Endowment Fund Report: (Appendix A) Copy attached. Kevin Leszczynski explained the Report, which shows that the Fund now has a value of \$1,327,114.00 as of 12/31/97. This represents a net

gain of \$160,180.00 for the year. Comments and discussion followed. The members of the Permanent Endowment Fund Committee were thanked for their dedicated work.

Pastor's Report: Der Patee elaborated on his report, which was accepted with appreciation.

Parish Council Report: A question was raised regarding the function of the Junior Choir, which is composed of Sunday School students. The ultimate objective is to prepare them to become future members of the Church Choir. As a Junior Choir, they participate in Sunday School Closing Exercises and the Christmas Eve Pageant.

Comment from the floor: Because it is difficult to digest all of the information in the Annual Report during the Assembly, it was requested that it be sent to members prior to the Assembly. The Parish Council can only do this if the reports of organizations are received on time. The proposed budget has been circulated in advance for the past several years.

Financial Report: The proposed budget in the amount of \$322,700.00 was reviewed. Motion made and seconded that the budgets be approved. Motion carried.

Old Business: At the 1997 Parish Assembly, the Parish Council and Perm Endowment Fund were authorized to "look into a way to use combined Campground interest and present a formula to use the growth in the Fund on special request by the Parish Council to the Parish Assembly." The Parish Council Chairman reported that the two groups met several times and a proposal was made but did not have enough time to reach a joint motion. He recommended the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee of seven (7) composed of two members of the Parish Council, two members of the PEF Committee and

three dues-paying members elected by the Parish Assembly. Discussion followed. There were seven volunteers. Ballots were circulated. The three elected members are: Vickey Sagherian, John Eskandarian and George Devletian. The committee will meet and report back within six months at a Special Parish Assembly for the Campground Portion of the Permanent Endowment Fund only.

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

Auditing Committee: John Eskandarian announced that due to the late receipt of some financial records a report was not available at this time. Audits of the General Fund, Special Affairs and PEF have yet to be completed. When this is done, the Committee's report will be submitted to the Parish Council. On the whole, the reports were in good order, with minor recommendations for improvement. The Assembly expressed appreciation for the work done by the church organizations.

New Business: A proposal to revise the Hayatian Hall Rental Policy (Appendix B attached), recommends that the Hall be made available to any Armenian in the community, with rental price being dependent on church membership status. Priority for a specific date would be given to the dues-paying church member whose rental fee would be \$225.00. For a non-church member, the rental fee would be \$300.00. The fees include costs for insurance and maintenance. All renters would still pay a \$100.00 refundable Security Deposit. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Proposal. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

Other New Business: A check in the amount of \$1,500.00 was received from PAND for our church's share of the profit from the 1997 New

Year's Eve Affair. Although it was not specifically mentioned in the cover letter, it was said that PAND donations were to go to the Sunday School. In the past, the money has gone to the General Fund. A letter acknowledging the gift will be sent to PAND, with a request that they designate if the money is to be used for a specific purpose.

35th Anniversary: Melcom Avrigian, chairman of the committee, reported on events promoting the 35th Anniversary of our church in Wynnewood - which includes a weekly Lenten series; a Workshop on the Badarak; a Marriage Enrichment Retreat - culminating with a banquet in October, presided over by our Primate, His Eminence Abp. Khajag Barsamian.

Joint Mass: A motion was made to have a joint Badarak with St. Gregory and Holy Trinity Churches. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. A combined program would be considered. The motion carried. The Parish Council was authorized to obtain the Primate's consent to hold a combined Badarak.

ELECTION RESULTS

Parish Council

Papken Megerian	(60)	Nubar Igidbashian	(45)
Malena Sarrafian	(55)	Aris Topakbashian	(45)
Edward Boyajian	(52)	Vahe Soghomonian	(37)

Charles Keytanjian (33) (21 run-off)

Alternates

Boghos Derderian (33) (16 run-off) Viken Evereklian (33) (12 run-off)

Leslie Alyanakian (30)

Nominating Committee

Carol Leszczynski (42)

Rosine Gouveia (41)

Silva Kailian (36)

Alternates

Garó Megerian (28)

Pat Pogharian (24)

Lucille Branin (14)

Auditing Committee

David Nalbantian (42)

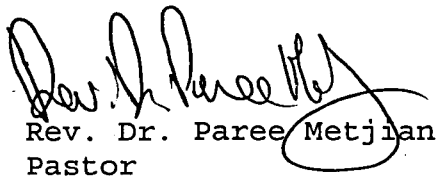
Alternate

Dan C. Takoushian (21)



Pastor's Closing Remarks: Der Paree stated that as good as things are now, they can get better. We must find ways to encourage our younger generation to be more active in church affairs. We must challenge them to want to be active! At the present time, we are financially solvent - we must also be spiritually solvent. As we enter a new millennium, our men, women and children must work together to help our church continue to grow.

Der Paree welcomed the newly elected and thanked the outgoing Parish Council members for their dedicated service. He also thanked the chairman and secretary of the Assembly for their services.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 3:45 p.m.


Rev. Dr. Paree Metjian
Pastor

Respectfully submitted,


STEVEN P. BARSAMIAN
Assembly Chairman

Elizabeth Boyajian
Assembly Secretary