

ST. SAHAG & ST. MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE 1999 PARISH ASSEMBLY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1999

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order at 12:50 P.M. by Steven Barsamian, Chairman of the Parish Assembly.

Der Paree opened the meeting with prayer.

Verification of Eligible Voters: Seventy-six (76) members registered. At the time voting took place, seventy-seven (77) had signed in.

Election of Assembly Officers: Steven Barsamian was elected Chairman and Arpy Attarian Jones, Secretary of the Assembly.

Minutes of 1998 Assembly: Accepted as submitted.

Minutes of the 1998 Special Parish Assembly: Accepted as submitted.

Pastor's Report: Der Paree reported on activities that occurred during the past year, the expectations for the coming year, including new activities for our Youth. He thanked all those who have helped during the past year. An Armenian Language/Cultural class given by Laura Aloyan will begin in March. He also reported on the "Sister Parish" St. Hovhannes Church in Gandzasar, Karapagh. This will be chaired by Hrair Megerian. Der Paree also stated that a Library/Book Store will be setup at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob. This will be headed by Bryn Keytanjian. There will be pilgrimage in the year 2000 organized by the Diocese, and Der Paree is hopeful that we can participate fully. This May our Parish will be sponsoring the ACYOA Seniors Sports Weekend.

Parish Council Report: Papken Megerian, Chairman of the Parish Council gave his report. Comments as follows: There was a celebration for all couples celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Papken commented on all the capital expenditures that made during 1998. These were long overdue improvements. He thanked Aris Topakbashian for all his efforts for the wonderful job he did to coordinate all of the projects. A comment was made that "Tarkmanchatz" should read "St. Tarkmanchatz Secondary School in Jerusalem." Also, the name of our Sister Parish is St. Hovhannes (in Armenian), this was clarified. This is in the village of Gandzasar in Karapagh. Papken thanked all those who dedicate their continued support, participation, and dedication to our church.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Silva Kailian read the names of the candidates for Parish Council, Nominating Committee, and Auditing. There were no additional nominations from the floor. A third person was needed to count votes because Carol Leszczynski was absent from the meeting. Alice Arakelian volunteered, and was approved by the Assembly. Official ballots were distributed. Voting was done by roll call. It was asked from the floor that, for next year's election, that a short biography of each person running for office be distributed prior to the elections.

Motion to adjourn for lunch. Seconded.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Financial Report: The proposed budget in the amount of \$316,450.00 was reviewed.

Auditing Committee Report: John Eskandarian gave the report for the Auditing Committee. He also brought up that the Committee has been recommending for years to bring in an independent outside auditor. A discussion was had regarding this issue with the emphasis on the cost of such an audit. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$5,000.00. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn in order that Parish Council can obtain bids, and since this has been put off for so long and to budget for 2000. It was also suggested that the amount needed be used from the excess fund. A motion was made to have the Parish Council have an independent audit of the church general funds and Permanent Endowment Funds, and for Parish Council to spend whatever amount is required. Motion carried. Parish Council and the Auditing Committee with confer on the bids. Papken Megerian thanked John Eskandarian for his dedication on the Auditing Committee for the past twelve years.

ELECTION RESULTS

Parish Council

Elizabeth Barsamian (70)	David Deratzian (44)
Ayshe Chakmaklian (71)	Sarkis Etoian (45)
Alicia Dakerian Craig (57)	Hrair Megerian (49)

Alternates

Lisa Manoookian (42)	Boghos Derderian (29)
Karnig Torossian (25)	Juliet Degermenci (13)
Rosine Gouveia (11)	Bedros Kolandjian (11)

Nominating Committee

Alma Alabilikian (55) Elizabeth Boyajian (59)
Anahid Megerian (38)

Alternates

Lisa Kazanjian (31) Zovig Devletian (28)
Dina Kazanjian (20)

Auditing Committee

Joseph Brinker (75)

Alternate

Audrey Shaw (2)

Election of Campground Disbursements Fund Committee Member: A report of Special Parish Assembly held on November 29, 1998, was made. This followed a study by an ad hoc committee. A special budget will be presented by the Campground Disbursements Fund Committee yearly at the Parish Assembly for expenditures on youth. This will be an oversight committee. Members of this Committee will be Parish Council President, a Permanent Endowment Member, one Diocesan Delegate, one Youth Committee Member, and one person selected at the Annual Parish Assembly. Steven Barsamian was nominated from the floor as liaison from Parish Assembly. Seconded. Election carried.

Motion to Approve Church Budget: Papken Megerian made a motion to amend the budget to reflect the cost of the up to \$15,000.00 for an independent audit to be transferred from the excess fund to the general fund and to add that Hye Society/ACYOA Seniors to be on the Campground Expenditure Budget. Motion to amend carried. Budget approved. Motion carried.

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

Der Patee gave an explanation of the transition of the Hye Society to ACYOA Seniors. The Parish Council will vote to accept that the ACYOA Seniors will be an active chapter at their next meeting.

Old Business: There was no old business.

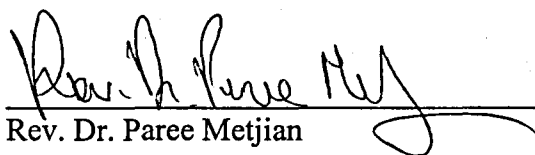
New Business: Yeretzgin Angel proposed a recommendation that the church be smoke-free during church activities. A long discussion was had among members of the Assembly. A vote was taken, but due to the lack of a quorum to achieve a two-thirds majority vote, the motion failed. Papken Megerian made a motion for the Parish Council to propose a plan for all members. Motion carried.

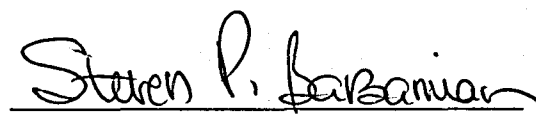
Other New Business: A proposal was made to hold the election at the end of the Parish Assembly so that members would not leave early.


Pastor's Closing Remarks: Der Paree thanked Steven Barsamian and Arpy Jones for their services during the Parish Assembly. He congratulated the new members of Parish Council, the Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee. Der Paree also wanted to thank Melcom Avrigian for his hard work and dedication in planning the 35th Anniversary Celebration by our Parish. He further explained the transition of the Hye Society to ACYOA Seniors and reiterated the importance of keeping our youth involved in the church. Der Paree gave a brief run-down of the events for the new millennium, including the 1700th Anniversary of Armenians as Christians in the year 2001.

The meeting was closed with a prayer and adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


Rev. Dr. Paree Metjian
Pastor


Steven P. Barsamian
Assembly Chairman


Arpy Attarian Jones
Assembly Secretary