

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 26, 1975

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

The general membership Meeting of St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Va. was called to order by the Parish Council chairman, Katchi Dedeian who in turn called upon Der Arsen Barsamian for the opening prayer.

Nomination were open for chairman and secretary for the day. Jack Tootelian and Virginia Greene were elected respectively.

A roll call was taken by John Ashjian, treasurer, and 62 members were present.

The minutes of the 1974 Parish Assembly were read by Virginia Greene and were approved as read.

Jack Tootelian, chairman, called upon Der Hayr to give his pastoral report. Der Arsen outlined his activities during the year and thanked various members for their devoted work especially those who served at the altar, the chairman of all organizations, the secretarial work involved and the cataloguing of the Armenian books in the church library. He also stressed the importance of a Ladies Aid which at the present moment needed strengthening.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Katchi Dedeian, in his report thanked all officers and every church member for supporting the Parish Council in all their projects.

Jack Tootelian then called upon the following for their committee reports:

Nectar Karntarjian, secretary of the Ladies Aid and also Mary Kricorian chairman, who in turn presented the Parish Council a check for \$500.00 on behalf of the Ladies Aid. She emphasized the fact that younger members were needed in the organization.

Mr. Robert Garian, Sunday School Superintendant gave his report and mentioned the various activities that the Sunday School students had participated in during the year. He then thanked the teachers and substitutes for their devoted work and also thanked Der Arsen for the work involved in programming.

Becky Baronian, chairman of the ACYOA, presented her report on behalf of the youth of our church and outlined the many activities the ACYOA had participated in during the year. She reported also that they are sponsoring a child's education in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Araxie Manoukian, choir director, stressed the need for more choir members.

Katchi Dedeian, chairman, submitted the nominees for the Parish Council, namely; Bedros Bandazian, Sam Ipekian, Gerry Sharigian, Jack Tootelian and Shunorig Soghoian. The following were nominated from the floor; Henry Magarian, nominated by Movses Tashjian and seconded by Nebe Boyajian; William Darhanian, nominated by Harry Darhanian and seconded by Peter Greene; Annie Garian, nominated by Roxie Kricorian and seconded by Jack Tootelian. A motion was made by Barkev Baronian to close nominations and seconded.

Elections were held and the following were elected to the Parish Council; Bedros Bandazian, Henry Magarian, Gerry Sharigian, Shunorig Soghoian and Jack Tootelian. The remaining members to serve another year were Vahe Garabedian, Peter Greene, Dr. Murad Kerneklian and Movses Tashjian.

As has been in the past, the nominating committee members for 1975 be those Parish Council members whose term would expire in 1975; they being, Vahe Garabedian, Peter Greene, Dr. Murad Kerneklian and Movses Tashjian. The Auditing Committee shall consist of John Ashjian, Barkev Baronian, Nebe Boyajian, Robert Magarian and Katchi Dedelian.

A financial report was given by John Ashjian, treasurer of the Parish Council. The controversial issue was the raising of the Diocesan Dues. Discussions were held by many members in regards to this. Many felt that no benefits were being derived from the Diocese namely, no visitations, no religious guidance, no cultural aspects. It was stated that representation was needed from New York to stimulate the community. The matter was drawn to a close but the membership wanted these factors brought to the attention of the Diocese.

John Ashjian, treasurer, then presented the proposed budget for 1975 which showed a deficit. Bedros Bandazian made a motion to raise the dues of the church to \$50.00 and seconded by Dr. Murad Kerneklian and then approved. If, in the event of a hardship case, it was said that the matter could be brought up to the attention of the Parish Council, in which case, dispensation could be made.


A motion was made by Katchi Dedelian to accept the budget and seconded.

Nebe Boyajian, treasurer of the Building Committee reported on his 1974 financial figures and was proud to say that our Sunday School building and our Parish House was now mortgage free. However, there were some pledges that were not fulfilled.


There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded.

Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted



Virginia Greene, Secretary



Rev. Arsen Barsamian, Pastor



Jack Tootelian, Chairman