

April 11, 1988

The Rev. Fr. Arsen Barsamian, Pastor
President of the Parish Council
St. James Armenian Church
834 Pepper Avenue
Richmond, VA 23226

Dear Fr. Arsen:

Upon reviewing the minutes of your annual parish assembly it came to our attention that a "vote of confidence" was being planned by the parish assembly concerning pastoral tenure.

Please be advised that such a vote would be inappropriate. For an election to take place, the parish assembly votes for a pastor based on a slate of candidates approved by the Primate. When there is no list of candidates for election as allowed for in Article #41 of the Bylaws, an appointment is made by the Primate as per article #47.

As you had indeed been appointed to the pastorate of St. James, article 41 is not applicable in this case and a vote of confidence, therefore, would be invalid. Kindly convey this to all the members of your council.

May God bless you and your faithful parishioners in His service.

Prayerfully,

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Primate

cc. Parish Council Chairman