

1990 REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

For Parish Council, this was a short eleven month year which passed quickly. Fourteen meetings were held.

This year has been a learning experience for Parish Council and for Hayr Soorp. We learned much about each other, including our methods of operations, customs and preferences. Certainly, we are breaking down natural barriers of cultural and philosophical differences and working together more efficiently.

During 1990, the Parish Council established the Parish Calendar of Events for the year. We assisted Hayr Soorp in his relocation and adjustment for his move to Richmond in the areas of housing, moving, transportation and immigration.

We established the Pastoral Housing Fund, the interest of which is to defray the cost of Hayr Soorp's housing allowance. The sale of the Parish House completed in 1990 netted \$89,844.05. We express our thanks to Elizabeth Tootelian for her services in arranging the sale.

We formed the four-member Building and Grounds Committee for the Church. Within budgetary limitations, the committee is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Church facilities, equipment and grounds. The committee reports to the Parish Council quarterly.

We invited Professor George Bournoutian from Iona College and the AGBU for March and October (cultural month) lectures on two very interesting topics of Armenian history and culture.

Parish Council assisted Tigran Amirkhanian with the Father's Day picnic and we assisted Bedros Bandazian in preparation of the name day Madagh dinner.

We implemented the practice of inviting the heads of Church organizations to Parish Council meetings to open the lines of communications and to discuss the needs and concerns of these organizations.

Parish Council converted the Sunday School from a single superintendent form of leadership to a multi-member school board. We also express our thanks to retiring Sunday School superintendent, Riva Sahar and to the current school board for its work.

The Parish Council encouraged more youth participation in the management and operation of the rug sale. Thanks to Michael Vranian, Marshall Knox, and the entire rug sale committee for their efforts. The 1990 rug sale netted a profit of \$12,459.55 from sales of \$78,168.00.

We commissioned a youth survey which assisted Hayr Soorp in

reorganizing the ACYOA.

In a successful experiment to increase summer church attendance, we decided to have summer services start at 9:30. On September 16, 1990 we changed the starting time of Sunday services from 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

We dealt with many issues concerning our aging physical plant including,

1. The deteriorating roof of the Church, kitchen and Sunday School,
2. Cooling of the choir loft,
3. Professional cleaning of the kitchen, hall, appliances and bathroom,
4. Refurbishment of the entrance to the Church,
5. Furnace repairs, and
6. Various issues concerning the grounds.

Through the mandate of the previous Parish assembly, we also considered and made the decision to acquire a computer system for the Church. This decision involved many, many hours of deliberation over the course of several meetings. Many thanks to Ron Greene and Hayr Soorp for their research and presentations to Parish Council and of course to the Womens' Guild for its generosity in purchasing the computer system which will be in place soon.

Parish Council engaged in detailed discussions of the history and evolvment of the Parish membership, including interest and participation in the Parish, and potential objectives for the future. We have worked with Hayr Soorp in defining his goals and towards shaping the Parish Council's role in assisting him to achieve his goals.

Also, proposed amendments to the Diocesan bylaws were considered. In addition we had the rare privilege of casting our Parish's vote through our Diocesan delegate in the election of the new Primate of our Diocese.

In an effort to assist our community and provide help to others, the Parish Council:

1. Again pledged \$500 to St. Nerses Seminary,
2. Arranged for the Church to be the primary sponsor of a Martyr's day ad in the Richmond newspapers,

3. Participated in the Diocesan solicitation program for relief of victims in an Iranian earthquake, and

4. Under the budgetary allowance approved by the Parish Assembly for Missions Programs, allocated \$750 to Armenian medical outreach and \$250 to CROP for hunger.

I wish to thank Hayr Soorp and all Parish Council members for their participation and leadership. This includes a special thanks to Ron Greene and Jack Tootelian for assuming the full responsibilities of the treasurer's office after the death of our colleague and treasurer John Ashjian. Their work enables us to provide the membership with organized and understandable financial reports.

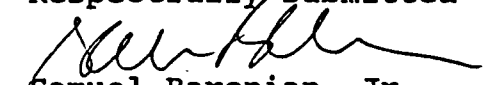
Also, Parish Council expresses its thanks to the members of the nominating committee, auditing committee, and building and grounds committee for their services. In addition, we wish to thank the officers of the various Church organizations for their leadership.

As far as the future is concerned, the future will be what we make it. The Parish needs to consider the establishment of a long range planning committee, a membership committee and a Sevan Editorial board. We need to improve the perception of the desirability of being a voting member of this Parish and of serving on Parish Council. It is critical that we attract youth members and youth leaders. I ask you to consider the age breakdown of the membership of our Church. Does our thirty-four year old Parish have any voting members under age thirty?

We must be more sensitive to organizational structure. Acting together in unison, the Parish Council must continue to fill its administrative role - to examine "the big picture", to make decisions, to accept decisions, to act together to implement the decisions, and to conduct the business of the Parish.

We need to move - but not as the wind blows. Change is not necessarily bad. It is not wrong to take a chance and try a new idea. Hard issues need to be addressed. Difficult decisions need to be made. Certainly the physical facilities of our Parish are more than adequate and we have more than a modest amount of money in the bank, but it takes more than that to sustain an organization and an institution.

Respectfully Submitted


Samuel Baronian, Jr.
Parish Council Chairman