

*O.K. no objection - free to Church Group only -  
but should pay for hall rental.*



**St. James**  
**Armenian Church**  
834 Pepper Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226  
(804) 282-3818

September 21, 1993

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America  
630 Second Avenue  
New York, New York 10016

Dear Srpasan Hayr:

There has been a request put before the Parish Council that calls for your guidance and wisdom. I have enclosed a letter from Bedros Bandazian, past Chairman of Parish Council and currently a voting member of our church and liaison for the Armenian National Committee. Acting upon his letter, we invited him to visit our most recent Parish Council meeting to discuss what he has in mind. He attended with three members of the Armenian Youth Federation whose parents are members of St. James Armenian Church. The children are active members of our Sunday School and Anoush Dance Troupe. They wish to be allowed to hold their functions in the church hall rather than outside the church.

The children do not understand the division of our people, and I realize that perhaps it sounds naive on my part, but I don't either. The presentation was strong for unity in our church and the Parish Council agreed unanimously with this but we ask your guidance before rendering a final decision.

Srpasan Hayr, the children are our future. It is important to let them know that their feelings are understood. We need to stand united most especially now, so we can do the most good for our brothers and sisters in Armenia. Who will love the Armenians more than other Armenians?

With your permission, the Parish Council of St. James Armenian Church will begin immediately to allow the Armenian Youth Federation and the Armenian National Committee to hold functions in the church hall and on the property of St. James Armenian Church. For such activities, wherein a church member takes responsibility, the hall and property will be rented at member rates.

The Parish Council of St. James Armenian Church believes that this is an opportunity for a step in a positive direction. You are so very busy, I know, but I do hope you will give this request your full consideration.

Please remember us in your prayers, so that we may continue to do all that is good for our church.

Yours faithfully,

Carol Garabetian  
Parish Council Chairman

enc.

# Armenian National Committee

## RICHMOND "VREJ" CHAPTER

3311 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230  
Phone (804) 358-5543 • FAX (804) 358-5590

July 2, 1993

Mrs. Carol Garabetian,  
Parish Council Chairperson  
St. James Armenian Church  
834 Pepper Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23226

Re: Use of Facilities

Dear Mrs. Carabetian:

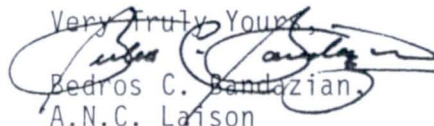
There appears to be a growing need for use of facilities by the Armenian National Committee and the Armenian Youth Federation of Richmond, Virginia because of the growing membership and desire to pursue more activities for fellowship, culultural enhancement and many needed commerations of Armenian National events.

Each time our groups wish to have an event, we have been using the facilities of outside sources and paying rent. Our organizations have suggested that perhaps it would be better to center these activities on Armenian Community property and thereby strenghten the image of the community and in turn let the St. James Parish benefit from the payment of these funds.

In our judgement, it is most un-wise to maintain a seperate utilization of the community facilities and perpetuate this invisible wall between our organizations and the church related community. Since the majority of our membership is already members of St. James Armenian Church, it seems feasible that our related organizations be allowed the full use of the facilities of St. James Armenian Church.

This letter shall be designated as an offical request from our present organizations and others to be formed in Richmond, Virginia that we be allowed to utilize the facilities of the St. James Armenian Church Hall, Kitchen and Educational Building for our funcitions whenever it is feasible at the same rental rate charged to members of the parish as indicated on the rental schedule. We await your written reply.

Very Truly Yours



Bedros C. Bandazian,  
A.N.C. Liaison

cc: Garabed Kelejian-A.R.F. Chairman  
Lara Nercessian-A.Y.F. Chairman