

1998 St James Armenian Church Parish Assembly Minutes  
February 8, 1998

Azniv Amirkanian, Parish Council Chairwoman, opened the meeting by asking for nominations and seconds to elect the secretary and chairperson person of the day. Anne Norris was elected secretary of the day and Bedros Bandazian was elected chairman of the day.

Azniv called the roll of the dues paying members and the nominating committee (consisting of Donna Walker, Joyce Soghoian, and Margie Baronian) passed out ballots to those people. There were 39 members present out of 89.

Anne Norris read the minutes of the 1997 Assembly meeting. Aram Topjian made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded and approved by the members.

A motion was made to change the balloting from #9 to #8 on the agenda. That motion was passed. The following reports were then presented:

**Financial Report:** Treasurer, Rob Norris reported a total income for the church of \$120,077 and expenses of \$118,143.63 for the 1997 fiscal year. Comments were generally very positive concerning last year's finances, but Rob emphasized that the church received almost \$23,000 in "in lieu of flowers" donations due to our parish's loss of so many loved ones in our church. These donations are of course a tribute to these individuals, however, were it not for these donations, the church would have finished the year significantly in the red. Rob tried to make the parish aware that the church's finances are still very tenuous. In the opinion of this secretary, that warning seemed lost and/or ignored by many in attendance and to the parish in general.

The 1998 proposed budget was amended to include a \$2400.00 payment to the Capital Reserve fund. With that addition, the total budget came to \$78,450 and the total for the proposed 1998 income came to \$76,000. Prior to the approval of the proposed budget, Robert Magarian expressed dismay at the size of the monthly phone bill. Donna Walker suggested looking into an alternative phone service. Rob Norris said that was one of the things he was going to be looking at this year.

John Baronian commended Rob Norris on his work throughout the year as well as the financial reports he prepared for today's meeting.

**Auditing Report:** Sam Baronian and George Ovgian reported that the accounts of each of the church organizations were found to be accurate and reflective of the true status as of 12/31/97. Sam and George were commended for their hard work at computerizing the checking account; they were able to run a monthly audit of the account. As result of their hard work, it is now possible to easily produce *and Income and Expense Report*, as desired by the treasurer. This system also simplifies the reconciling of the monthly bank statements. George Ovgian also recommended moving accounts into higher interest accounts.

**Pastor's Report:** Hayr Scoorp gave a very detailed report. He called 1997 a year of Mission and Outreach in the Armenian Church of America. St. James joined Virginia Council of Churches and one the cabinet meetings was held at St. James. St. James also hosted a dinner for 40 clergy from different denominations.

He reported that there were no Bible studies this past year due to lack of attendance. He is planning a special Divine Liturgy course for spring 1998 for those who would like more understanding of the worship service.

The church is fortunate to have Roxie Krikorian as our new secretary.

Hayr Scoorp expressed appreciation for the time that our choir members put in; he also emphasized the need for new members. He commended our youngest organists, Karina and Anton for their help since the birth of their cousin has kept their aunt, Susanna Arnold, from being able to play as usual. He also commended the 8 altar servers for their commitment of time. Both Sunday School and Armenian School need the commitment of parents if they are to be successful. He thanked the Parish Council members and noted that we recognized the exceptional hard work of John Baronian and Nebe Boyajian. Hayr Scoorp noted his appreciation of the work of the Women's Guild, ACYOA, and the Senior Group as organized by Rose Soghoian and Victoria Jamgochian. He was appreciative of the fund raising efforts of Bedros Bandazian and the generous contributions by many in our community for the purchase of the pastor's car. Also, Jack and Elizabeth Tootelian were thanked for the providing our sanctuary with a long needed face-lift—a complete paint job of the sanctuary.

Last, but certainly not least, Hayr Scoorp remembered those loyal members whom we lost this last year. We lost several very loved and respected members of St. James.

Various other reports: Reports were given for the following:

1. 95<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Assembly
2. Parish Council Report(breakdowns of activities, renovations and repairs, and future planned renovations and activities. Parish Council members were: Azniv Amirkanian, Chairman; John Baronian, V Chairman; Steven Barsamian, Secretary; Noubar Ozbalek, Corresponding ; Rob Norris, Treasurer; Nebe Boyajian, Asst. Treasurer; Murad Kerneklian, Advisor
3. Sunday School Report
4. Choir Report
5. Women's Guild Report
6. Finance Committee Report—This Endowment Funds Report was very professionally done. It was apparent that the Finance Committee, consisting of Bedros Bandazian, Harry Klanian and Jack Tootelian, were extremely thorough and meticulous in the gathering of figures and in their presentation of the prepared document. It was noted that Jack Tootelian's term will expire January 31, 1999 and a new member of the committee will need to be elected. Bedros Bandazian's term does not officially expire until January 2003 but he would like to be replaced by January 2000.

#### Election of new Parish Council Members, Nominating Committee, and Auditing Committee

Before balloting could begin, the nominating committee announced the need to have one more name on the ballot for auditing. Dale Baronian was nominated and seconded; her name was added to the ballot.

Elected Parish Council members: John Baronian, Nebe Boyajian, Rob Norris, Aram Topjian

Elected Nominating Committee: Dorian Barsamian, Victorian Jamgochian, Joyce Soghoian

Elected Auditing Committee: Sam Baronian, Charlie Dedeian, George Ovigian

*Bedros Bandazian* *John Norris* *Jr. Nareg Babikian*  
Assembly Secretary