

MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING, SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 1970  
HOLY RESURRECTION ARMENIAN CHURCH, SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Meeting opened with a prayer at 7:00 p.m. Roll call taken -- president Very Rev. V. Keshishian and 54 members in good standing are present.

The chairman of the Parish Council, Sarkis Tchejeyan, explained that a chairman, secretary, and timekeeper would be elected for tonight's meeting. Officers were elected as follows:

Kaiser Boyajian, Chairman  
Grace Hadjinian, Secretary  
Tony Hadjinian, Timekeeper

Kaiser took over at 7:20 p.m. First report was by the Parish Rector. Then the parish council report by Chairman, Sarkis Tchejeyan, as per the attached report. The financial report was given by the temporary treasurer, Arthur Barsamian. He explained that although it looked as though we operated at a loss for the year, this was not true. In January of 1969 we paid \$800 to the Diocese for our dues which was in arrears from 1968. Also, approximately \$2200 was already paid for the new furnace which was an unforeseen expenditure, and the balance will be paid in 1970. The furnace bill is all that is outstanding as of the beginning of this year, with all dues having been paid to the Diocese which was owing for 1969. Mr. John Tertadian asked why there was an unusual increase in the new budget for office equipment. Arthur explained that as the office was becoming more efficient, and better records were being kept, more money was needed.

The Ladies Aid report was given by Celia Vahradian, Chairman. In the absence of the Treasurer, Rose Hadjinian, Naimzar Kaprelian gave the financial report. Mrs. Arous Kaloustian, at this point, turned over an additional check to Hayr Soorp for \$500.00 for the Parish Council. This is over and above their first donation early in 1969 for \$500.00.

Sunday School report given by Rose Esaian, Superintendent.

Choir report by Ruth Kashishian. Financial report by Mary Haidarian.

Junior ACYOA report by Rose Esaian, Advisor.

Bulletin report by Agnes Barsamian. She also made a plea for donations as it was the recommendation of the staff to mail these bulletins out to all members.

Cemetery committee report by Mihran Hayalian, who injected his inimitable sense of humor by stating he had more members in the cemetery than at this meeting, although they were not dues paying. He, too, pleaded for donations, for the upkeep of the cemetery and listed one of his projects as painting of the fence, for which he needed both money and manpower. He said, to date, the only donations he has ever received for the cemetery was \$2,000 from John Sarian to bring water from Rawson Ave. to the cemetery, \$150.00 from the late Hampar Bogosian, \$50.00 from Missak Isken-darian, California, and \$50.00 from George Thomas.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

page 2

January 18, 1970

Auditor's report given by Kappy Kaprelian, as per the attached.

Kaiser called for a question and answer period.

John Tertadian asked, it would be possible to mail the foregoing reports to all members before the annual meeting so that it could be studied and understood correctly. Arthur Barsamian explained that there would not be enough time to mail them out as there was an interim of only 2 weeks from the closing of the books and the general meeting. John then asked if they could not have been passed out after church services this morning. Arthur said the Parish Council was always open for recommendations and would consider this for the next annual meeting.

Charles Kademian again asked if all bills had been paid to date. Arthur said they had excepting for 50% of the furnace bill which is not due until March or April of 1970. We are also current with Diocesan dues.

Charles Kademian made a motion that the foregoing reports be accepted. Esahag Haidarian seconded it. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Parish Council members next.

Esahag, Chairman of the Nominating committee, explained that at the last general membership meeting, a committee was nominated comprised of himself, Chas. Kademian, George Kaprelian, and Ruth Kashishian. They had several meetings and sent out letters to members whom they recommended for the Parish Council. As a result, some refused, some accepted. He listed the names of those who were willing to serve on the Parish Council, Diocesan delegates, Auditing committee, and nominating committee. He then asked for names from the floor. He explained we would be electing six new Trustees, and the 6th name would serve for only one year, as it would be filling out the term of one trustee who resigned after serving one year.

There was a big discussion whether a member could serve on two executive bodies at the same time. Inasmuch as nothing was found in the Diocesan by-laws, and none of the local by-laws stated anything, it was supposedly in order to serve both bodies. Hayr Soorp explained that the local by-laws stated that only the cemetery committee could not serve on two bodies. Celia Vahradian said she would like to make a motion that no member could serve on two executive bodies, but her motion was considered out of order at this time. Esahag explained that in the case of smaller parishes where they do not have the membership, some members do serve on two boards. Archie Dadian made a motion that the nominations be closed. John Tertadian seconded it. Unanimous. Elections took place with the following results:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

page 3

January 18, 1970

Russell Kaishian	48
Charley Kademian	46
Hoyle Green	45
Esahag Haidarian	43
Armand Bendian	40
Anthony Cifaldi	31
Esay Esaian	27

*Kaprel Kaprelian 37*

Auditing committee elections next. Agnes Barsamian moved the nominations be closed. Archie Dadian seconded. Motion carried.

Results:	Naimzar Kaprelian	38
	John Tertadian	34
	Mary Haidarian	30
	George Kaprelian	22
	Rose Bendian	18
	Helen Barsamian	16

The three members elected are Naimzar, John, and Mary, with George acting as alternate. This is for a term of one year.

Diocesan delegate elections. Results:

Harold Baylerian	35
Arthur Barsamian	16
Archie Dadian	4

7 Harold is our delegate for a period of two years, and Arthur Barsamian, alternate for two years. Sarkis is our remaining delegate.

Nominating committee election. Results:

Kaiser Boyajian	41
Sarkis Tchejeyan	34
Archie Dadian	29
Naimzar Kaprelian	27
Rose Esaian	17

The three members elected were Kaiser, Sarkis, and Archie for a term of one year.

The proposed budget for 1970 was presented for approval. Charley Kademian made a motion that the proposed budget for 1970 be accepted. Rose Esaian seconded it. Motion carried.

Old business. Frank Markarian was given the floor to state his recommendations on the Parish House status. He started by saying that a year ago a Parish House committee was established answerable to the Parish Assembly. They did exceptionally well. The tenants too were very cooperative in that they did all the cleaning and painting of the home at no cost to the church; The tenants even signed an agreement carrying certain provisions to safeguard our interests. A checking and savings account were opened.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

page 4

January 18, 1970

He said not a penny was wasted, and even minor expenses that were incurred were paid by the committee. They gave a substantial amount of money to the Building fund, so it could pay the Diocese the debt they owed. The majority of the Parish Council members were misled, and the Parish Council wanted the money so they could defray ordinary expenses. Because of this unjustifiable interference and being treated as ordinary errand boys, the committee was forced to be inoperable. Now there is no parish house committee. He stated the cemetery and the Ladies Aid have their own checking account, and likewise our \$25,000 equity in the Parish House with a yearly income of \$2,000 should have their own checking account. He does not feel that the Parish Council should interfere, as they have more than enough to do. He made a motion that we re-establish the Parish House committee composed of a Trustee and two lay members. Charley Kademian seconded it.

John Tertadian asked that the members be brought up to date. Grace explained that Russell Kaishian had been handling the Parish House since the disbanding of the Parish House committee.

At this point, Charley Kademian made a recommendation that a permanent committee be elected of 3 to 5 people on a ten-year basis and call it the Building Fund committee. This committee would be empowered by the congregation and would look after any surplus money from the different organizations, and invest it wisely. They should also be responsible for the deeds to the church and its properties and the insurance policies, etc.

To this recommendation, Arthur made one minor recommendation that all committees are answerable to the Parish Council. It does not mean that this Parish Council wants special powers. This means that the Parish House committee should be answerable to the Parish Council. For the simple reason of maintaining control so the same situation could not happen in the future. One man of this 3 man committee resigned because of poor health, another man resigned, and the power was left to one member. No books of the church should be under the control of any one member with only one signature for deposits or withdrawal. We are not questioning Frank's integrity and did not want to see his feelings hurt personally. There should be at least two signatures on any church bank account. When the committee was left to one man, the Parish Council felt it should intervene and asked Mr. Markarian to make a report, which he refused to do. Fortunately, he turned the money over to the Building Fund and the monies were retained in this church, and we commend Frank in channeling the money to the Building Fund, but a one man control in any one account is not good for any organization of the church. This committee should have some place to report, not to the Parish Assembly that convenes once a year, and you give this committee carte blanche as they see fit when it gets down to one man.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

page 5

January 18, 1970

One reason that the Parish Council intervened to keep an eye on the books until the Parish Assembly could get together. Our decision was reprimanded by the Archbishop, but he also said that Frank was not right, and he recommended that the Parish Assembly decide what to do.

Sarkis made a motion that we vote on a three member Parish house committee to take care of the Parish House and pay the Parish apartment house rent. No second.

Frank said he was not in favor of the motion. If the Parish house funds are used to defray expenses, there would be no inducement to save money. Frank again made his motion that this Assembly go on record to establish a 3-member parish house committee composed of a Trustee and two lay members. Charley Kademian seconded it. Vote was taken. Results Yes 38, no 13. Motion carried.

Arthur Barsamian said the Trustees will appoint their representative, and it is up to this assembly to elect two people. Elections were made:

Avak Yendunian	42
John Sarian	32
Nazar Balian	24

Nerses Nersesian asked why the Trustee was not being elected this evening. It was explained that the new Trustees were not as yet submitted to the Primate, and it would be out of order to hold the election now.

Because of the lateness of the hour, it was decided that Charley Kademian would not elaborate on his recommendation to set up a building fund. Motion was made by Esahag that Charley work on this program and present it to the next general membership meeting. Sarkis seconded it. Motion carried.

New business. Archie Dadian asked for some time to give his views on the present pledge system consisting of weekly envelopes. He said that many members were not paying regularly, some weekly, some every month, 6 months, or even yearly. He said the system was wrong because each member has 52 envelopes per year, and sometimes in the case of the older members they are lost or misplaced. Sometimes they think they have placed their donation in the envelope, but they have not. This statement is justified by Archie because each envelope is opened with two members present and checked, and in this year, Sam Hadjinian assisted Archie. Some envelopes are scotch taped so tightly that when they are opened the date of the envelope is lost and therefore cannot be credited to the proper week. This year a slight change was made. In other words, the envelopes were handed out as close to an alphabetical order as possible. This will simplify the posting of the envelopes. Another recommendation for 1971 is instead of having 52 envelopes per year, there should be 12, one for each month. Second suggestion was to have a sheet for each member and

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

page 6

January 18, 1970

post all donations on that sheet which could possibly cover a 5-year term. It would be an easy matter, than, to give a member a copy of their donations at any one time by making a Zerox copy. Third suggestion is once we have this system working, keep a master copy on the bulletin board. Probably in this way, some members would be shamed into paying their dues.

John Tertadian made a motion that the Trustees look into the matter. Charley Kademian seconded it. Motion carried.

Frank Markarian made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Everyone seconded it. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 11:35 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Grace Hadjinian*  
Grace Hadjinian, Secretary

*Kaiser Boyajian*

Kaiser Boyajian, Chairman

*V. Rev. V. Keshishian*

Vy. Rev. V. Keshishian, President