

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church  
4605 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin  
Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly - Sunday afternoon, January 26, 1975

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Following the calling to order of the meeting at 2:30 p.m. by Harry Cherkinian, parish council chairman; reading of the minutes of the previous parish assembly meeting by Charles Garbedian, parish council secretary; a carried motion that those present constitute a quorum; and election of George Stevoff as chairman and Mrs. Benjamin Kamakian as secretary of the meeting, the Annual Parish Assembly was commenced.

Ballot for Parish Council for the election of 4 vacancies and Ballot for Auditing Committee, for an election of 3, were distributed. Names appearing of the Parish Council Ballot were: Mark Akgulian, Sahag Akgulian, Margaret Armaganian, Paul Chobanian, Murad Gengozian, Manoog Gengozian, Edward Kaprelian, Sam S. Kaprelian, Paul Tewagian, Jack Torosian. Nominated from the floor were Benjamin Kamakian and George Kadamian. Names appearing on the Ballot for Auditing Committee were: Mary D. Akgulian, Carl Ammeian, Ardis Cherkinian, Mary Cherkinian, John Esayian, Mary Janikian, Perry Paragamian, and Frank Vidian. Balloting remained open until 3:15 p.m. for benefit of late-comers with Harry Boranian, Sarkis Cherkinian, and Charles Dadian tallying.

Report of Church Organizations were made by following representatives: Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. Mikael Garoukian; ACYOA, Kai Kazarian; Women's Guild, Mrs. Harry Akgulian; Sunday School, Mrs. Mike Kadamian; Project Committee, Mike Vidian; Auditing Committee, Mrs. Kay Mikaelian, who reported that the committee consisting of Sarkis Cherkinian, chairman and including Frank Vidian, Marty Nersessian and herself, audited books of the Parish Council and found same to be in good order. The choir and the Armenian School had no representative. The Parish Assembly booklet listed financial statement and yearly activities of each church organization.

In his state of the church address, Harry Cherkinian mentioned that our church faces many problems, with no clergyman being the first. He said there were a great many things we could be doing that we don't do because we don't have the volunteer help. He thanked Elsie Garoukian for typing bulletins and all else needed; Misak Vidian, chairman of the Project Committee for the tremendous job done by his committee; the altar deacons and acolytes who have kept the church's doors open; Claire Kadamian for the reorganization of the Sunday School. The committee working all year in search of a permanent priest, known as the "Search Committee" consists of George Stevoff, Rose Akgulian, Mike Garoukian, Chuck Harcy, Sarkis Cherkinian and Harry Cherkinian. They have contacted 10 to 11 clergymen in our Diocese, but have not as yet received all replies.

Sarkis Cherkinian, parish council treasurer, announced that the January, 1975 mortgage balance was \$73,194.49

At Vartini Cherkinian's request, figures of total amount pledged and pledges respected will be announced at the next parish assembly. These pledges refer to those memorial pledges made at the New Church Memorial Dinner.

The Parish Council was asked to look into the Trust Fund to see if the term of Sam Akgulian, Mrs. Sarkis Cherkinian, and Charles Dadian has expired, and present finding at next parish assembly.

Upon a motion made by Claire Kadamian, with a second by Charles Garbedian, it was carried that the 1975 budget as submitted be approved.

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Upon a motion made by Shockey Gengozian and seconded by Mike Garoukian, it was moved to rescind the resolution passed last year whereby the Parish Council was instructed to form an Open House Committee.

Harry Cherkinian stated that the 60th Anniversary Martyrs Day Program which will be held at Memorial Hall on April 20, 1975, is being jointly sponsored by St. Mesrob Church, St. Hagop Church of Racine, Holy Resurrection of South Milwaukee and St. John of Greenfield, as requested by the Diocese. St. Mesrob Church has no financial obligation.

A motion made by Rose Akgulian with a second by Mike Janikian that events sponsored by an Armenian charitable organization open to the public free of charge be allowed the use of St. Mesrob hall at no cost was defeated.

Discussion on the use of the hall for recreational purposes by youth was closed, as the chairman pointed that the Parish Council is mindful of these problems.

A majority vote indicated a wish to invite non-assigned clergy, other than Armenian, to deliver the sermon on occasion. The Parish Council will take this under advisement.

The Status of the Permanent Trust Committee will be brought up at the next parish assembly.

Upon a motion made by Murad Gengozian with a second by Shockey Gengozian, it was moved that two committees be formed: Membership and Pledge Renewal, and that the Parish Council form the first committees and thereafter membership be elected by this body.

A raising of the hands vote indicated that those attending the meeting favored a function be held marking the 50th anniversary of St. Mesrob Church in Racine.

Concluding the meeting was the chairman's reading of the results of balloting:

Parish Council:

Paul Tewagian, 50 votes  
 Paul Chobanian, 35 votes  
 Edward Kaprelian, 30 votes  
Manoog Jansouzian, 22 votes  
 Murad Gengozian, 20 votes  
 Mark Akgulian, 15 votes  
 Margaret Armaganian, 15 votes  
 Sam S. Kaprelian, 18 votes  
 George Kadamian, 15 votes  
 Ben Kamakian, 13 votes  
 Sahag Akgulian, 11 votes  
 Jack Torosian, 11 votes

Auditing Committee:

Frank Vidian, 38 votes  
 Perry Paragamian, 33 votes  
Ardis Cherkinian, 25 votes  
 Mary D. Akgulian, 24 votes  
 Carl Ammeian, 21 votes  
 Mary Cherkinian, 21 votes  
 John Esayian, 21 votes  
 Mary Janikian, 11 votes

Upon a motion made by Var Cherkinian, with a second by Virginia Musurlian, the meeting stood adjourned at 5 p.m. Deacon Mike Garoukian led in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary M. Kamakian*

Mrs. Benjamin Kamakian, Secretary

*George Stevoff, Chairman*