

St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church
4605 Erie Street, Racine, Wisconsin 53402
Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly
Held in Church Hall
Sunday Afternoon, January 30, 1977

Meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by parish council chairman, Paul Chobanian. Attendance was 79. Following the opening prayer by the pastor, the Rev. Arten Ashjian; a carried motion that those in attendance constitute a quorum; reading of the minutes of the May 23, 1976, special parish assembly by parish council secretary Paul Tewagian, which were to be filed as read; and the election of Mikael Garoukian as chairman and Mary Kamakian as secretary of the day, the meeting commenced.

Rev. Ashjian gave his annual state of the church address and detailed report concluding with remarks and recommendations. Rev. Ashjian assumed pastoral responsibilities at St. Mesrob in August, 1975.

Remainder of items on agenda as appearing in printed booklet given to each member upon entering meeting, together with ballots for voting.

4. Parish Council's Annual Report
5. Parish Council's Financial Statement
6. Report of Auditing Committee
7. Annual Reports of Parish Organizations
8. Report on Midwest Council of Armenian Churches
9. Report on the question of cleaning the church
10. Adoption of Budget for 1977
11. Election of four Parish Council Members
12. Election of Auditing Committee
13. Election of Nominating Committee
14. Proposals to be submitted to the Diocesan Assembly
15. Four proposals by Mrs. Rose Akgulian

Although all organizational reports were in printed booklet, representatives were on hand to answer any questions from membership.

In response to a question from the floor, Der Hayr clarified reason for his visits to Palos Heights, Illinois Armenian community, which he made on his own time. The Armenian community is without a church and holds afternoon services in a local Episcopal Church. On three occasions in 1976 Der Hayr was able to be with them to conduct services (not Divine Liturgy). Upon request of the Palos Heights Parish this was authorized by the Primate.

Our mortgage balance, which stood at \$55,689.96, at the start of 1976, has been reduced to \$44,282.72, as of December 31, 1976. Payments are \$551.66 per month. Checking balance is \$647; \$8,000 in savings account.

Financial report as corrected with inclusion of a disbursed \$2,380 from the Holy Cross Fund and an additional expenditure of \$154.70 for kitchen supplies, was accepted.

Spokesman for the Auditing Committee, Catherine Mikaelian, reported all books were checked and found to be in good order.

Vartini Cherkinian voluntarily offered to assume the responsibility of cleaning the church for 1977.

Advisements from the Chairman:

On future financial reports dividends be shown individually rather than a total figure only.

Parish Council should take into consideration a recent directive which instructs Parish Council of the visited church to make payment to visiting priest's home church.

The mortgage principal and interest should be broken down on next year's financial report.

The ACYOA is to break down figures and give more detail on future financial reports.

Sam Akgulian of the Reserve Fund was instructed to correct his report indicating accurately names of committee members and submit same to secretary.

Motions seconded and passed:

Clair Kadamian's motion that the Armenian School give a broken down financial report to the secretary for filing.

Harry Boranian's motion that Items 8 and 9 on agenda be moved down to follow Item 13.

Harry Cherkinian's motion that the budget as corrected be adopted.

Paul Chobanian's motion that the membership present go on record as favoring the continuance of the Midwest Council of Churches.

Sarkis Cherkinian's motion that a special meeting be held prior to the Diocesan Assembly for discussion and preparation of issues for the delegates.

Harry Boranian's motion that due to the seriousness of the status of the Choir the Parish Council check into this matter and make every attempt to resolve existing problems.

Rose Akgulian's motion that the Parish Council be instructed to obtain the Building Committee's promised placque listing names of all donors.

Rose Akgulian's motion that the Parish Council appoint a committee to explore the possibility of housing units for the elderly on our church property.

Rose Akgulian's motion that one room in the church complex be set aside as the Founders' Room and a committee be appointed to undertake the project.

Rose Akgulian's motion that the Parish Council appoint a committee to investigate the endowment fund procedures of our Diocese and implement same or a similiar one for our parish.

Results of balloting:

Parish Council:

1. Steve Barootian, 61 votes
 2. Sarkis Cherkinian, 60 votes
 3. George Stevoff, 56 votes
 4. Harry Boranian, 55 votes
- Sam Kaprelian, 36 votes
Peter Kazarian, 17 votes
Harry Musurlian, 8 votes
Sam Paragamian, 6 votes

Margaret Armaganian, 10 votes
Nomination from floor seconded

Nominating Committee:

1. Sue Esayian, 53 votes
 2. Elsie Garoukian, 53 votes
 3. Harry Cherkinian, 42 votes
- Claire Kadamian, 38 votes
Nishan Hacherian, 23 votes
Al Topalian, 17 votes

Auditing Committee:

1. Mary Dadian Akgulian, 53 votes
 2. Sam Akgulian, 40 votes
 3. Frank Vidian, 37 votes
- Mary Cherkinian, 36 votes
Margaret Armaganian, 30 votes
Mary Ann Injasoulian, 18 votes

Membership went on record to extend special thanks to Elsie Garoukian for cutting stencils for the 1977 Report Booklet.

The meeting stood adjourned at 6:50 p.m. and concluded with remarks and the closing prayer by Rev. Ashjian.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary M. Kamakian

Mrs. Benjamin Kamakian, Secretary