

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**  
**February 9, 1992**

**St. Mesrob Armenian Church**  
**Racine, Wisconsin**

The meeting was opened at 11:20 a.m. Der Garabed Kochakian began with a prayer. Elsie Garoukian, 1991 Parish Assembly Chairperson came forward to handle Agenda Items #1 and #2. Mrs. Garoukian asked for a verification of voters. Sam Kaprelian, Parish Bookkeeper stated that there were 57 members registered. Chairperson Garoukian called for a quorum and Mikael Garoukian seconded this motion and it was passed.

Elsie then invited Paul Minasian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee to conduct elections for Chairman of the Day and Secretary of the Assembly. Paul requested a second name be placed in nomination for Chairman of the Day, in accordance with Diocesan By-laws. Mel Hagopian nominated Sam Akgulian for this position: it was seconded by Catherine Mikaelian. Mel Hagopian moved that the nominations be closed; Catherine Mikaelian seconded. The balloting took place.

The elected Chairman of the Day was Elsie Garoukian and the Secretary of the Assembly was Lauren Chalekian.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY.**

Lauren Chalekian requested that a line in the previous report on the DRE Conference be corrected to say, "Among other things she stated that the Sunday School is the duty of the entire Parish, it belongs to everyone, not just the teachers." Claire Kadamian moved that the minutes be approved as corrected, Martha Kargenian seconded. The motion was passed.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA.**

Kai Kazarian made a motion that #10 on the Agenda - Nominating Committee Report and Elections, be moved to #6: Murad Gengozian seconded, the motion passed.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT AND ELECTIONS.**

Paul Minasian pointed out that we needed 3 additional names for Parish Council to make the appropriate slate of 2 for each open position. Lisa Akgulian requested that the present Parish Council members be listed. They are as follows: Kai Kazarian, Murad Gengozian, George Sahagian, Hourig Tcheurekdjian staying on. Jack Kazarian, Myron Chordegian and Sam Garabedian going off. The additional names of Jack Kazarian, Peter Kazarian and Sue Vidian were added to the original slate of Margaret Armanian, Gary Vidian and Michael Kaprelian. Balloting took place and Margaret Armanian, Gary Vidian and Michael Kaprelian were elected for 2 year terms.

Since there were a full slate of names for Nominating Committee, Auditing Committee and Permanent Trust Committee, Mel Hagopian moved that the

nominations be closed, Alice Hazarian seconded and the motion was passed. The elections were held and the results are as follows:

**Nominating Committee for 1992** - Mary K. Akgulian Claire Kadamian  
and Charles Hardy

**Auditing Committee (3 yr. term)** - Arthur Musurlian

**Permanent Trust (3 year term)** - Frank Vidian

Paul Minasian extended a thank- you to all on behalf of this year's Nominating Committee. Its members were Paul Minasian, Catherine Mikaelian and Marguerite Guglielmo.

**PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT AND MESSAGE.**

Mel Hagopian motioned that the Pastor's Report be approved as read and presented, Mary Cherkinian seconded. The motion was passed.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT.**

Parish Council Chairman, Jack Kazarian, expanded upon his written report. In regard to our St. Mesrob Festival, he was pleased to inform us that Perry Paragamian has graciously decided to resume the position of General Chairman. There will be a reorganization in order to better educate others as to the actual running of this festival. The date this year is August 2, 1992.

There are still several problems with the structure of the Church. A sagging roof has created the waterproblem along the North wall of the Sanctuary. The shingles are in good shape but the leaking appears to be around the nails in the shingles. An attempt to correct this will be made with caulking. The block wall on the exterior is still in need of some attention.

We need a general consensus on how to fund these special projects. A special fund of approximately \$20,000.00 could be set up or a special sale of some type could take place to help defray these costs. Mel Hagopian pointed out that in 1986 our Permanent Trust contained approximately \$150,000.00 and in 1991 it contined \$258,000.00. We took out \$9,000.00 to fix our parking lot and \$12,000.00 for the floor burnishing machine, computer and lawn mower. At this time a great deal of concern was expressed on returning these amounts to the Permanent Trust. In spite of all this, and even with no special funding we replaced that amount and then some. After further disscussion concerning the repairs of the parking lot and the decaying blocks on the wall in the hall, Mel Hagopian moved that approximately \$7,500.00 for both repairs be taken from the Permanent Trust Fund in order to cover the costs incurred. Martha Kargenian seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

Mikael Garoukian requested that the names of Parish Council members be added to this report. He then made a motion to accept the the report with corrections, this was seconded by Claire Kadamian and the motion passed.

**PARISH TREASURY AND FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

In the absence of Parish Treasurer, Hourig Tcheurekdjian, the report was given by Sam Kaprelian, Parish Book-keeper and Jack Kazarian, Parish Council Chairman.

The ACYOA Juniors were the only group which has still not formally closed their books. They were given an extension by the Parish Council in order to have funds to conduct their retreat. The books will be in order and closed by February 29, 1992.

Kay Mikaelian questioned if we had a fee schedule for other parish's use of Der Hayr's time. At present we have no policy or line item for this.

Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian asked that the number of dues paying members each year should be listed in the booklet. Elsie Garoukian said this should be part of the Annual Treasurer's Report.

Tom Janikian expressed concern over the cookbook sales in 1991 being only \$1,400.00. Has any effort been made to promote these?

Mike Garoukian questioned the guidelines set forth by the Diocese for the Priest's stipend. George Stevoff stated that these are set up as appropriate for the Mid-west region.

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Assessment is 1% of our total annual budget. Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian feels the expenses for the Madagh should be netted out each year but the Parish Council feels that this is an annual expense that they assume. It should remain as stated.

The amount of \$2,800.00 under 1992 Budget - Building Exterior is for recaulking of the leaking roof. Jack Kazarian asked that the amount of \$7,500.00 under Donations be stricken as an error. Also a better wording for line item #1 - Transfer to Permanent Trust was requested and will hereafter be referred to as Surplus. Mel Hagopian moved we accept the Financial and Treasurer's Report with the above 2 corrections. Sam Akgulian seconded and the motion was passed.

#### **REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE 1992 BUDGET.**

A line item change for the 1992 Festival budget from \$25,000.00 to \$20,000.00 was requested by Perry Paragamian. Mike Garoukian stated that this could be balanced by eliminating the \$5,000.00 surplus amount. Perry Paragamian moved that the 1992 Budget be accepted with the above changes. Myron Chordegian seconded the motion and it was passed.

#### **AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT.**

Lisa Akgulian reported that the Auditing Committee found all accounts to be in order and appreciated the timely response in which they were given. A suggestion was made to please be prompt in turning over your surplus monies to the Parish Council. Mike Garoukian made a motion that we accept the report of the Auditing Committee, seconded by Mel Hagopian and passed.

#### **PERMANENT TRUST COMMITTEE REPORT.**

Sam Akgulian asked that we please change the amount of \$313,326.00 to \$315,101.00 on line 6 of the Permanent Trust Report, and \$256,802.00 to \$258,578.00 on line 7. At the time of this report it was not finalized due to C. D. Interest accumulating until the end of the year.

Sam invited any ideas for reinvestment. Our CD's are short term and we received low interest rates on them. Yerezgin Roberta Kochakian made a motion to accept the report with specified changes. This motion was seconded by Claire Kadamian and passed.

#### **PROPOSALS TO THE 90TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY.**

At this time, our Representatives have no proposals to put before the delegation.

George Stevoff informed us that we would be hearing a report on the new Youth Ministries position from Der Marderos Chevian. He holds the position of Director of Youth Ministries.

Shockey Gengozian said that there should be something done by each Parish to encourage increasing the membership in the Armenian Church. She would like to see a proposal which states that a committee be formed to increase the membership of each Parish in the United States. This proposal was dropped due to lack of a second.

#### **NEW BUSINESS.**

A motion was made by the Parish Council to direct the Permanent Trust Committee to seek the advice of a Certified Financial Planner so as to maximize the earning and capital gains on our church investments. Yerezgin Roberta Kochakian seconded. Much discussion followed. The motion passed on a 23 - 20 standing vote.

Adam Chalekian expressed concern about the length of time and the amount of discussion involved and still no results concerning the condition of our building.

Shockey Gengozian made a motion that the Parish Council include the names of all members of the St. Mesrob Church for 1992 in the next annual report. Byds Musurlian seconded and the motion passed.

Mark Akgulian raised a question as to the status of the Parish House. Is it feasible to sell it at this time since it requires a fair amount of maintenance? Jack Kazarian said we don't lose any money on it. Sam Kazarian pointed out that we have some control over who our neighbors are this way. Ardis Cherkinian felt we should continue to look at it as a monetary investment.

Perry Paragamian would like to clear up an misconception as to his holding the Sam's Club Card. It is available to any church organization with a checking account. It was decided to have Perry hold the card since he does the majority of purchasing for our festival.

Mel Hagopian asked if anything had been done regarding the deed to the Church? It was last seen in 1982-83. George Stevoff had tried to track it down without success. We would like to direct the Parish Council and Permanent Trust to look into this.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CHOIR.**

Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian said the Choir is presently looking for a new Director and can always use new members. A motion to accept their report was made by Martha Kargenian and seconded by Mary Cherkinian. The motion passed.

**WOMEN'S GUILD.**

Byds Musurlian corrected the number of current dues paid members to 39. This years Christmas Fair was a success. A motion to accept was made by Sarkis Cherkinian, seconded by Mel Hagopian, the motion passed.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

Lauren Chalekian announced a combined effort of the Midwest Superintendent's Committee to include the Chicago Parishes in our Mardi Gras Celebration. She invited all to attend. A motion was made to pass this report by Claire Kadamian and seconded by Mel Hagopian. The motion passed.

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE.**

Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian said that this committee works very hard to bring us quality cultural programs and it is very discouraging when it is poorly attended. A motion to accept the report was made by Murad Gengozian and seconded by Martha Kargenian. The motion passed.

**ACYOA JUNIORS.**

Lara Kazarian presented this report. A motion to pass was made by Sam Akgulian and seconded by Mel Hagopian, the motion passed.

**ACYOA SENIORS.**

Tom Gengozian stated that in November of 1991, an attempt was made to reorganize with a good start. 10 people have expressed an interest in this group. Presently, the Parish Council holds their funds but they hope to have their own treasury soon. They will be visited by 2 representatives from the ACYOA Central Council on the weekend of February 16, 1992. A motion was made to accept the report by Mary Katerdjian and seconded by Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian. The motion passed.

**ARMENIAN FESTIVAL.**

Myron Chordegian asked why the Festival date this year is August 2nd. Perry explained that the first Sunday in July this year is July 5th and this is unacceptable because of the July 4th holiday. The only alternative was August 2nd.

Last years Festival was probably the best. Raffle sales are dwindling and we should look to reorganization to increase our output. This years Festival will have 4 separate area chairmen with Perry Paragamian as General Chairman. Three of the four positions are already filled. A motion to accept this report was made by Martha Kargenian and passed by Mary Katerdjian. The motion passed.

**RETIREES.**

Sam Kazarian made a note of a \$200.00 donation made to the Church.

A suggestion was made by Yeretzgin Roberta Kochakian to have some of their more interesting programs and speakers in the evening so more of us could attend, however, the daytime hours are for the convenience of our elderly who don't wish to travel in the evening. A motion to accept this report was made by Murad Gengozian and seconded by Martha Kargenian. The motion passed.

#### **PROJECTS COMMITTEE.**

Sam Akgulian again gave a report on the condition of our building and grounds. A motion to accept the report was made by Perry Paragamian and seconded by Mary Cherkinian. The motion was carried.

#### **BOOKSTORE.**

Claire Kadamian will check with Der Hayr on perhaps a sale of the merchandise that is not moving. Sales were successful at both the Festival and Christmas Fair. A change in name for Nancy Cherkinian to Nancy Hardesty was requested. The motion to accept with the above correction was made by Mel Hagoian and seconded by Martha Kargenian. This motion passed.

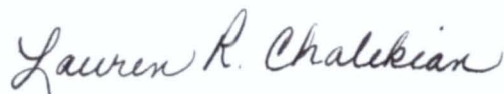
Two flags were donated to the church. The United States Flag was donated by Sam Garabedian and the Flag of the Republic of Armenia was donated by Hourig Tcheruekdjian. These may be used by any organization that wishes to do so. Much discussion followed the presentation of these flags. They were to be accepted with the Diocesan stipulations, as follows: They are never to be used in the Sanctuary and the U.S. Flag is always to be displayed higher than the Flag of the Republic. George Stevoff informed us these flags are already used in the Diocese on many occasions. There is also an interest in the Flag of our Diocese. Plans are being made to have them reproduced.

A motion to adjourn was made by Martha Kargenian and seconded by Sarkis Cherkinian. The motion passed.

In closing, Der Hayr thanked the Parish Council and the executive officers who ran the meeting. He congratulated all newly elected parishioners. Also, a special thank-you was extended to Claire Kadamian for her many hours of work on the annual reports booklet.

The meeting closed with a prayer and was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren R. Chalekian,  
Secretary of the Assembly



Elsie Garoukian,  
Chairman of the Assembly



Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian,  
Pastor & President