

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Washington, D. C.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Assembly Chairman, Dr. Arra Avakian, at 2:00 p.m. Of a total of 108 members, 55 were in attendance and a quorum was present. The Very Reverend Vasken Kebreslian, newly appointed Vicar-General of the Diocese, who was the visiting Priest on January 29, opened the Assembly with a prayer. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mr. Peter Terzian, Parish Council Member and 1966 Bazaar Chairman, who was killed in an automobile accident on November 19, 1966.

The minutes of the third session of last year's Parish Assembly were read by Mrs. Lillian Kasparian, secretary of that session. The Chairman confirmed the fact that the minutes had been approved by the Diocese by reading a letter from the Primate.

Mr. Philip O'Gulian, Parish Council Chairman, welcomed everyone and expressed thanks for the cooperation and support displayed by parishioners and pointed out that though we were without a Parish Priest, the response from parishioners volunteering their services was overwhelming. He reported on the exerted efforts of the Parish Council over the past five months to obtain a replacement for Bishop Karekin and indicated that a permanent Priest for St. Mary's had not yet been found. He indicated he is in constant touch with Bishop Torkom, who is determined that the most qualified Priest within the Diocese will be selected for St. Mary's. Mr. O'Gulian was complimentary of the various organizations of the Church. He also reported on the recent visit of Deacon Kasparian, who has been appointed by Bishop Torkom to help reorganize the ACYOA. Mr. O'Gulian ended his report

by saying that St. Mary's not only increased its membership in 1966, but also completed a financially successful year.

The Parish Council Treasurer, Dr. Edward Onanian, presented his report. He stated that our income for the year was \$13,967.12, with expenses amounting to \$12,599.69, leaving a balance at the end of the year of \$2,141.82. This compares with a balance the previous year of \$774.39. He clarified some expenses in the report such as Maintenance and Supplies, Intra-Diocesan Relations and Memorial Markers. Dr. Onanian reported that the total receipts of the Bazaar held last November were \$6,920, with expenses amounting to \$2,164.09, leaving a net profit of \$4,755.91 -- the most successful Bazaar St. Mary's has ever had.

The Auditing Committee's Report, given by Dr. Vartkes Broussalian, indicated that the Church's financial books and those of the Ladies Auxiliary, both of which were examined, were in order. He stated that the Building Fund Committee's accounts have not been audited, but will be when the accounts are turned over to the Parish Council.

Mrs. Clara Andonian, Co-Chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented a written report and expressed thanks to the Parish Council, to members and friends for a very successful year.

Mr. Dikran Koumjian gave an oral report as Diocesan Delegate to the 64th Annual Assembly which took place in Tenafly, New Jersey on April 29 and 30, 1966. The next Diocesan meeting will be held in Detroit, Michigan in the spring of 1967.

Mr. Caspar Kasparian, also a Diocesan Delegate, read and presented his written report to the Assembly. He pointed out the need for qualified clergymen in the

Diocese and reported on the Diocesan Budget. Of great interest to everyone is the proposed date for completion of the Cathedral (September 1967), at which time His Holiness Vasken I has indicated he will be present. A proposal by Mr. Koumjian to get 100 persons to purchase \$10,000 life insurance policies payable to the Cathedral Fund is under consideration by the Diocesan Council and the Cathedral Committee. Bishop Torkom was elected Primate and the Diocesan By-Laws were revised, pending approval by the Catholicos.

Mr. Ashod Krikorian, Chairman of the Choir Association, reported that the Church organ which cost \$3700 was paid for in full. He also announced that the 21st Annual Choir Association meeting would be held in Washington, D. C. in the fall of 1967. At this point, Dr. Avakian made a plea for more members to join the Choir. He said they were in particular need of male voices.

The Sunday School Report was presented by Mr. Sahag Dedeyan, one of the Acting Superintendents. He thanked Dr. Charles Kumkumian, past Superintendent, for his untiring and unselfish work. He stated as yet a new Superintendent could not be found and appealed to the Parish to support the Sunday School in every way. He also expressed the need for more teachers and equipment for storing books.

Mr. Dikran Koumjian, Chairman of the Building Fund Committee, stated that of the \$23,285 pledged in November 1964 (recently this amount was reduced by \$2,000), \$13,251 had been paid, leaving \$8,034 to be collected. He pointed out that the \$10,000 loan from the Holy Cross Church of New York had been paid in full. The remaining indebtedness of the Building Fund totals \$37,500 of which \$10,000 is due the Diocese on its loan and \$27,500 is due the Perpetual Building

Association on its mortgage. After submitting his report, Mr. Koumjian said he was now resigning from the Building Fund Committee. The Assembly Chairman accepted his voluntary resignation and declared that the present Building Fund Committee was non-existent. The Assembly voted that a new Building Fund Committee should be appointed by the Parish Council as soon as possible.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Vahan Kurkjian, stated that a meeting of the Nominating Committee was held, at which time the Chairman and Treasurer of the Parish Council were present, and the following nominees were selected:

- Jack Andonian
- Gary Avedikian
- Harry Baker
- Caspar Kasparian
- John Kavookian
- Jack Kazanjian
- Ashod Krikorian
- Jacob Krikorian
- Hrand Kurkjian
- Albert Manian
- Philip O'Gulian
- Edward Onanian

The following candidates were nominated for the Auditing Committee:

- Raymond Babigian
- Mary Bogosian
- Vartkes Broussalian
- Levon Garabedian
- Charles Kumkumian
- Vahan Kurkjian

There were no further nominations offered on the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and motion was passed. While the votes were being tabulated, the Assembly continued on to discuss the proposed budget for 1967.

Dr. Edward Onanian reported cash on hand amounted to \$2141.82, expected income \$13,900.00, making total available income of \$16,041.82. What do we intend to do

with the money? Expenditures will amount to \$14,760, leaving \$1,281.82 -- (with \$1,000 of it in contingency reserve), making total of \$16,041.82. The Chairman requested that the Assembly vote on the proposed budget. The Assembly unani- mously approved the proposed budget as submitted.

The next item on the agenda was Other Business. Mr. Dikran Koumjian submitted a proposal regarding a prospective American-born and educated Priest now residing in Jerusalem. After some discussion, it was pointed out by the Parish Council that the Priest in question had already been considered by the Diocese and it was Bishop Torkom's decision that the Priest was not suitable for St. Mary's.

The results of the election as announced by the Chairman were as follows:

For Parish Council:

Edward Onanian	53 votes	
Caspar Kasparian	51 "	
Philip O'Gulian	48 "	
Jack Andonian	38 "	<i>Elected</i> <i>am</i>
Jack Kazanjian	33 "	
Harry Baker	33 "	
<hr/> Hrand Kurkjian	28 "	
Ashod Krikorian	19 "	
John Kavookian	8 "	
Albert Manian	8 "	
Gary Avedikian	6 "	
Jacob Krikorian	4 "	

For Auditing Committee:

Vahan Kurkjian	39 votes	
Vartkes Broussalian	37 "	<i>Elected</i> <i>am</i>
Raymond Babigian	27 "	
<hr/> Charles Kumkumian	24 "	
Mary Bogosian	19 "	
Levon Garabedian	16 "	

Inasmuch as there was a tie vote for two of the Parish Council Members, another vote was taken to determine who would serve the 2-year term and who would serve the 1-year term which was vacated by the resignation of Mr. Raymond Babigian. Mr. Jack Kazanjian was elected to serve the 2-year term.

In conclusion, the Vicar-General expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome he received from the parishioners and wished St. Mary's every success.

Mr. Caspar Kasparian made a motion that a vote of thanks be extended to the Assembly Chairman for a most orderly and expeditious meeting. The Chairman quickly threw out the motion, amidst applause. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p. m.

Respectively submitted,

Esther B. Krikorian
 Esther B. Krikorian
 Assembly Secretary

Arra Avakian
 Dr. Arra Avakian
 Assembly Chairman

Attachments:

Parish Council Report, including Treasurer's Report, with proposed budget
 Report of Auditing Committee
 Report of Ladies Auxiliary, including Treasurer's Report
 Diocesan Delegate's Report (C. Kasparian)
 Choir Report
 Sunday School Report
 Building Fund Committee's Report