

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1968

The meeting was called to order by the Assembly Chairman, Dr. Arra Avakian, at 1:35 p.m. Of a total 104 members, 51 were in attendance. This not making up a quorum, any decisive matter would require a 2/3 vote and be subject to confirmation of the Diocesan Council. Father Paren Avedikian, pastor of St. Mary's Church opened the Assembly with a prayer. A special prayer was also offered at this time, commemorating the loss of 5 members of our Parish, Andrew Nargizian, Paul Andonian, Ester Onanian, Mendouhi Khatchikian and Vahan Bogosian. ✓

The minutes of last year's Parish Assembly were read by Miss Anne Andonian, secretary of this session. The minutes were accepted as read after a correction was made on the price of the church organ, from \$3,700 to \$2,700

Dr. Avakian asked at this time that all reports be concise and expedited as quickly as possible. He once again stated that we did not have a quorum, therefore all decisions would be binding and valid if we had a 2/3 vote and presented them to the Diocesan Council for their confirmation. ✓

Very Rev. Paren Avedikian, presented a thorough report of his activities and undertakings since he assumed his pastoral duties on May 16, 1967 in St. Mary's Parish. He expressed his happiness with the cooperation he has received from the various church organizations and parishioners in general, but felt that there were more people in the Parish who were able to give more of their time for the improvement of the life of this Parish. To make his plea more explicit he numerated the following areas where we need help most urgently.

- A. Altar Servers
- B. More voices in the Choir (especially male)
- C. "Mas" makers
- D. Substitute Organists
- E. Sunday School Substitute Teachers
- F. Experienced advisors to guide A.C.Y.O.A. JR'S
- G. Shnorhali Club Staff members.
- H. Shnorhali Bulletin Staff members
- I. Home visitation groups to assist the Pastor

J. Membership Drive Groups

K. Part time office secretaries

Father Paren's statistical report, stated that there have been 5 deaths, 5 Christenings and one wedding since he assumed his duties. During this same period, he participated in 66 meetings of the various church groups, made 121 home visitations and 64 sick visits at hospitals and homes. In addition to his regular pastoral duties, he is also conducting Childrens' and Adults' Armenian School classes. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to the various Church organizations for the cooperation they offered him in conducting the Spiritual and Social Life of this Parish to the Greater Glory of God and developing fellowship of ours. After an invitation to questions, one of the parishioners asked Father Paren what his office hours were. The Parish was informed that his hours were as follows; 3:30-6:00 p.m. at the Church daily, with the exceptions of Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday and every morning until 10 a.m. at his home. Mr. Bodourian complimented Fr. Paren on his compact and informative report.

Mr. Philip O'Gulian, Parish Council Chairman, extended his thanks to Mrs. Edward Onanian for the preparation of the luncheon preceding the Assembly meeting. He then expressed his appreciation to the parishioners and Parish Council for their efforts and cooperation in the past year and that as a result of it, everything had improved in the Church and financially we were in a better position than last year. He also advised the parishioners that they were in the process of making improvements in the Church and asked that we all cooperate in keeping it in good condition. He closed with the hopes that next year would be even a more successful year.

The Parish Council Treasurer, Dr. Edward Onanian presented his report. He stated that our income for the year was \$15,180.24 with expenses amounting to \$12,623.86, leaving a balance at the end of the year of \$4,698.20. (This balance includes the previous year's balance of \$2,141.82). He clarified some expenses in the report such as Maintenance and Supplies, Building Improvements and Diocesan Dues. Dr. Onanian reported that the total receipts of the Bazaar held last October were \$8,082.58, with expenses amounting to \$2,607.73, leaving a net profit of \$5,474.85, the most successful Bazaar St. Mary's has ever had. The Treasurer's report was accepted after a correction was made on the net for the raffle, from \$1,723.30 to \$1,462.39.

The Auditing Committee Report which was to have been next on the Agenda was changed to follow the Women's Guild Report.

Mrs. Alice Terzian, Co-Chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented a written report and expressed thanks to all parishioners for their assistance in helping to make this a successful and full year, with the hopes of their support for the fourthcoming year.

The Auditing Committee's Report, given by Mr. Vahan Kurkjian indicated that the Church's financial books, those of the Ladies Auxiliary and Building Fund had been examined and were found in good order. The net balance as of December 31, 1967 was \$10,614.57 (including the Building Fund accounts). The report was accepted as read.

Mr. Caspar Kasparian, a Diocesan Delegate, stated that neither he nor Mr. Koumjian were able to attend the last Diocesan Assembly and that if any of the parishioners wished to present anything to the next Diocesan Assembly to contact him or Mr. Koumjian. Father Paren and Dr. Avakian were invited to comment on the Assembly since they both had been in attendance. Dr. Avakian informed the parishioners that His Holiness Vasken I would be here April 25-28 for the Consecration of the Cathedral and would officiate at the Diocesan Assembly, also the new Constitution would be in effect at this time. He also informed the Parish that the Diocese had decided to borrow 1½ million dollars and go ahead with the complete construction of the Cathedral and Cultural Center. Dr. Avakian felt that all parishioners should witness the Consecration of the Cathedral as this was the most important event of the year and would probably never be repeated. He stated that 10,000 people were expected to attend. Those who donate \$500.00 or more will receive invitations to each of the events that will take place this weekend. The event will be on Closed Circuit Television. Lesser donors would be able to attend the Banquet and see the events on TV. Dr. Onanian expressed his opinion on the fact that they were basing the attendance of the events on a monetary basis. He felt this was improper and expressed his desire to make a proposal on this matter.

Mr. Ashod Krikorian, Chairman of the Choir Association, gave a written detailed report on the Choir's activities and stated that the bank balance as of December 31, 1967 was \$688.97 as compared to \$11.47 last year.

Mr. Krikorian was complimented on his report and Choir work.

The Sunday School report was presented by Mr. Joseph Vartabedian, the Sunday School Superintendent. He stated that there were 30 children in the Sunday School, with a weekly average attendance of 15-20. He expressed his desire to see more interest taken in the Sunday School by the parents and also asked for help from church members as Sunday School Teachers. At present there are 5 teachers. Mr. Vartabedian clearly stated all the problems the Sunday School had and all the action to be taken to correct them. The Chair commented on this report. Dr. Avakian felt this was a well presented report and that all reports should state their goals and problems, listing what has been done and what has to be done.

Mister Allan Kazanjian, A.C.Y.O.A. Junior Chapter Chairman presented his report. Allan gave a detailed and enthusiastic report of the A.C.Y.O.A.'S activities in the past year and after completing his report, received spontaneous applause by the church members.

Mr. Caspar Kasparian, Committe Chairman of the Building Fund, presented a written report and stated that there were eight parishioners, who had outstanding pledges which total to \$1,985.00, which they had every expectation of collecting. The plans they have for the fourthcoming year are a Commemorative and Fund-raising banquet, a Commemorative Booklet, and a Fund-raising dance in May.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Neshan Hintlian was pleased to announce that the nominating committee and Father Paren received full acceptance when they approached the following nominees:

Dr. Harry Baker  
 Mr. Levon Garabedian  
 Mr. John Kavookian  
 Mr. Ashod Krikorian  
 Mr. Jack Krikorian  
 Mr. Hrand Kurkjian  
 Dr. Ohannes Sahagian  
 Mr. Aram Sakayan  
 Dr. Levon Terzian

The following candidates were nominated for the Auditing Committee:

Mr. Sahag Dedeyan  
 Mr. Vartkes Broussalian  
 Mr. Vahan Kurkjian  
 Mr. Raymond Babigian  
 Miss Mary Bogosian

A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and the motion was passed. While the votes were being tabulated, the Assembly continued on to discuss the proposed budget for 1968.

Dr. Edward Onanian reported cash on hand amounted to \$4,698.20, expected income \$14,500.00, making total available income of \$19,198.20. What do we intend to do with the money? Expected expenditures will amount to \$14,500.00. Dr. Onanian clarified the expenses on the Youth Program. They plan to buy a Ping Pong Table, sponsor a Camping Trip and form a Basketball team. He also stated that the Diocesan dues would probably be higher than proposed, due to additional expenses. One of the Parishioners suggested that any amount in excess of the first \$100.00 increase over and above the estimated amount come from Building Improvements.

Dr. Terzian moved that the proposed budget be adopted as presented. It was seconded and carried. Dr. Onanian was complimented on how close he came on last year's proposed budget and for the wonderful job he has done over the years.

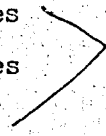
The next item on the agenda was Other Business. Dr. Edward Onanian submitted a proposal as follows; Resolved : that St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church, through its Pastor and Parish Council, express in writing to the Primate and Diocesan Council: (1.) Its strong disapproval of the Diocesan decision to base attendance at the Consecration of the Cathedral on financial ability; and (2.) to urge the Diocese to reconsider this decision and base attendance on an equitable and Christian basis. There was a discussion on the proposal. The resolution was passed with 29 for and 6 opposed. A second proposal was presented by Father Paren as follows: Resolved: that In consideration of the fact that as a living Church, it is our duty to respond in some substantial way to the dire needs of our Society in this day and age, I propose to undertake one annual function by this Parish, proceeds of which should go completely to assist a good cause in this country or abroad and not necessarily an Armenian organization. After some discussion on this proposal, a motion was made and passed to table it.

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

57 attendees  
2/3 234

For Parish Council

Dr. Harry Baker	41 votes
Mr. Ashod Krikorian	32 votes
Mr. Aram Sakayan	32 votes
Dr. Ohannes Sahagian	28 "
Mr. Levon Garabedian	20 "
Mr. John Kavookian	16 "
Dr. Levon Terzian	15 "
Mr. Jack Krikorian	8 "
Mr. Hrand Kurkjian	8 "



The Nominating Committee declared the following people as newly elected members of the Parish Council:

- Dr. Harry Baker
- Mr. Ashod Krikorian
- Mr. Ohannes Sahagian
- Mr. Aram Sakayan

For Auditing Committee:

Mr. Raymond Babigan	34 votes
Mr. Sahag Dedeyan	32 "
Mr. Vahan Kurkjian	29 "
Miss Mary Bogosian	25 "
Mr. Vartkes Broussalian	23 "

The following were declared newly elected members of The Auditing Committee

- Mr. Raymond Babigan
- Mr. Sahag Dedeyan
- Mr. Vahan Kurkjian

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

*Fr. Paron Avetikian*

Respectively submitted,

*Anne Andonian*

Anne Andonian  
Assembly Secretary

*Dr. Arra Avakian*

Dr. Arra Avakian  
Assembly Chairman