

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

The Annual Parish Assembly was called to order by the Chairman, Col. George Juskalian at 1:15 p.m., January 26, 1969. A quorum was present. Bishop Papken Varjabedian, our new spiritual leader, offered the opening prayer.

The minutes of the last Parish Assembly were read by Miss Anne Andonian, 1968 Assembly Secretary and approved as read.

The minutes of the Preliminary Parish Assembly on December 15, 1968 were read by Mrs. Esther Krikorian, Assembly Secretary, and approved as read. (See Attmt. 1)

In his message to the parishioners, Bishop Papken stressed the fact that everyone should work together in our church, each contributing of his talents and means. He also hopes to encourage members to participate in the singing during the divine liturgy and to increase sunday school attendance by parents bringing their children to church. Bishop Papken said he had already visited 20 homes and would be available at the church if anyone needed to talk to him. He said his dual role in Washington as the primate's legate would require that he devote a portion of his time each week to that task.

The Assembly Chairman then called on the Parish Council Chairman, Mr. Caspar Kasparian, for his report. Mr. Kasparian said it had been a busy year for St. Mary's in view of the Catholicos' and the Primate's visit to Washington. He

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expressed thanks to the parish council members, who have been hosting the visiting priests since Father Paren Avedikian left our parish. He pointed out that any success was due to the work of the whole parish and that everyone should continue to help our church and not say "no" when asked to do a particular job. (See Attmt. 2)

Mr. Kasparian submitted his written report on the Diocesan Assembly meeting and pointed out some of the highlights. (See Attmt. 3)

The Women's Guild report was presented by Mrs. Alice Baker, Co-Chairlady. She expressed sincere thanks to everyone who had helped in their various projects, and said that 6 new members had joined the Women's Guild last year. (See Attmt. 4)

The Sunday School report was read by Mr. Joseph Vartabedian, our Superintendent. He urged members to offer more assistance to the Sunday School. Question was raised why Armenian was not spoken in Sunday School. Mr. Vartabedian agreed it was regrettable, but said this was due to lack of teachers who can speak the language and asked for assistance from any source in this regard. (See Attmt. 5)

The Choir Report was given by Mr. Ashod Krikorian. He said the Choir had shown much improvement this past year and much of it was due to regular rehearsals. He praised our faithful organist, Mrs. Lillian Kasparian, who each Sunday participates in the Divine Liturgy. As to the financial report, the Choir had a balance on hand as of December 31, 1968 of \$413.03. (See Attmt. 6)

Dean Shahinian, President of the ACYOA, read his report. He was also asked to give his personal observation regarding the Cathedral Challenge which he attended last summer in New York City. He indicated it was very inspiring and worthwhile.

(See Attmt. 7)

A verbal report on the Shnorhali Bulletin was given by Mrs. Esther Krikorian. She stated that the Bulletin was first started by Bishop Karekin in 1960, when he became our first pastor, and she expressed thanks to the present committee, which, in addition to herself, consists of Mr. & Mrs. Sarkis Satian, Miss Teresa Eminian and Mr. Ashod Krikorian.

The Building Fund report was read by Mr. Sahag Dedeyan. No questions were raised regarding the report. (See Attmt. 8)

Mr. Edward Onanian presented the Treasurer's Report which showed income in the amount of \$15,508.88 and expenditures in the amount of \$13,279.36. This left an operating surplus of \$2,529.52, which he said did not mean too much inasmuch as all expenditures authorized had not been made. Mr. Onanian pointed out that the pledge income was way below what it should be and cited the following examples:

- 26 members donated \$20 to \$26 per year
- 33 members donated \$27 to \$52 per year
- 59 members donated \$ 1 or less a week

Out of 105 members - 45 provided the bulk of our income.

Mr. Onanian continued by explaining the various items in the financial report which might need further amplification.

He also said we were very dependent upon the Bazaar profits

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for much of our income. This year's Bazaar, the most successful ever held, brought in gross income of \$8910.62, with expenses amounting to \$2,375.86, leaving a total profit of \$6534.76. A motion was made to approve the Financial Report as submitted. It was seconded and by voice vote, the report was approved. Mr. Onanian was also commended for preparing such an excellent report. (See Attmt. 9)

The Parish Council Chairman announced that the committee, chaired by Jack Andonian, was about to sign a contract renovating the downstairs hall, and work would begin in a couple of weeks.

Col. Juskalian reminded everyone that the year was almost up for paying their Building Fund pledges made in 1968. More than \$5,000 was yet to be collected. He recommended to the Building Fund Committee that they follow-up on these pledges.

The proposed budget for 1969 was the next item on the agenda. Mr. Onanian said it was a very tight budget and that more money was needed in the form of dues and pledges. He pointed out that we could not and should not rely on the Bazaar alone for our income. Our total membership was only 105, with a potential membership of 250. Motion was made that the proposed budget be accepted as presented. It was seconded and by voice vote, the budget was approved. (See Attmt. 9)

Mr. Raymond Babigan read the Auditing Committee report which indicated that the books and records of the Treasurer, the Women's Guild and Sunday School were in order. Motion was made to accept the report as read. It was seconded and passed

by voice vote. (See Attmt. 10)

The election of Parish Council members, Diocesan Delegates, Auditing Committee and Nominating Committee was next on the agenda. Mr. Jack Kazanjian of the Nominating Committee listed the nominees for Parish Council and asked for further nominations. Mr. Armen Garabedian was nominated from the floor. For Diocesan Delegate, Mr. Dikran Koumjian's name was nominated from the floor.

At this point, the Assembly Chairman called the Assembly's attention to P54 of the Diocesan By-Laws which says "parishes having 100 eligible voting members or less shall have one lay delegate in the Diocesan Assembly. Parishes having more than 100 such members shall be entitled to one delegate for each of said 100 members, or a fraction thereof, provided, however, that such fraction shall be no less than 25, provided further that no parish shall have more than 7 delegates." In view of this and the fact that our membership numbered 105, he pointed out we should legally vote for one Diocesan Delegate instead of two. Mr. O'Gulian said heretofore we have been sending two delegates and should continue to do so until the Diocese tells us we do not have the right. Motion was made to send two delegates to the Diocesan Assembly. It was seconded, and by voice vote the motion passed.

Inasmuch as there were no further nominations, members proceeded to vote for the following nominees:

PARISH COUNCIL

Haig Basdekian
 Armen Garabedian
 Rita Jerrehian
 Casey Kazanjian
 John Ohanian
 Levon Terzian
 Joseph Vartabedian

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

Arra Avakian
George Juskalian
Caspar Kasparian
Dikran Koumjian
Ashod Krikorian
Edward Onanian

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Moses Arkoian
Raymond Babigan
Sahag Dedeyan
Charles Kumkumian
Albert Manian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Gary Avedikian
Raymond Babigan
Harry Baker
Caspar Kasparian
Casey Kazanjian
Edward Onanian

While the votes were being counted, the Chairman took this opportunity to express thanks for the Assembly and for himself, personally, to the five outgoing Parish Council members (Caspar Kasparian, Philip O'Gulian, Edward Onanian, Jack Andonian and Jack Kazanjian) and their wives for their efforts, not only this past year but in previous years.

Mr. Kasparian expressed his sincere appreciation for the outstanding job which Col. Juskalian and his committee did during the Catholicos' visit.

New business was the next item on the agenda. Dr. Avakian moved that a new 3-member committee be formed, one of whom would be a Parish Council member, to call on Armenian families in the Greater Washington area, in an effort to seek new membership in our church. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Motion was also made and passed to have the Parish Council appoint the 3-member committ

The next item was a proposal by Mrs. O'Gulian that an advertisement listing Sunday church services at St. Mary's be inserted weekly in the Saturday issues of the Washington Post and Evening Star. After much discussion, the matter was referred to the Parish Council for further consideration.

Bishop Papken presented two items for consideration in future plans. One would include a new altar for our church and the other would be the purchase of a 3 or 4 acre lot in the metropolitan area. Both Mr. Askan Hatchikian and Mr. Edward Onanian suggested that these proposals seemed premature; accordingly, they were tabled.

Mrs. Lillian Kasparian proposed that the Parish Assembly recommend that the newly formed Parish Council appoint a Publicity Chairman from their Executive Body. This proposal was passed on to the Parish Council for its consideration.

Before the results of the election were announced, the Chairman thanked the ladies for preparing the delicious luncheon served prior to the Assembly meeting.

The following were elected:

PARISH COUNCIL (5)

John Ohanian	45)	
Haig Basdekian	43)	
Casey Kazanjian	42)	New Parish Council
Levon Terzian	34)	
Armen Garabedian	33)	
Joseph Vartabedian	28)	
Rita Jerrehian	23)	

DIOCESAN DELEGATE (2)

Caspar Kasparian	32)	
George Juskalian	28)	Diocesan Delegates
Arra Avakian	24)	
Edward Onanian	13)	
Ashod Krikorian	9)	
Dikran Koumjian	0)	

AUDITING COMMITTEE (3)

Raymond Babigan	41)	
Charles Kumkumian	39)	Auditing Committee
Sahag Dedeyan	35)	
Albert Manian	32)	
Moses Arkoian	14)	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (3)

Edward Onanian	45)	
Caspar Kasparian	42)	Nominating Committee
Harry Baker	29)	
Raymond Babigan	18)	
Gary Avedikian	14)	
Casey Kazanjian	13)	

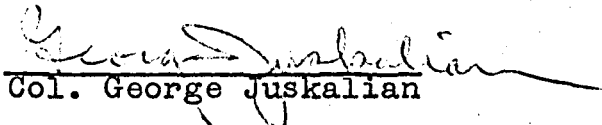
Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther B. Krikorian

Esther B. Krikorian
Secretary of Parish Assembly

Approved:


Col. George Juskalian

Chairman of Parish Assembly

Attachments:

1. Preliminary Parish Assembly Report
2. Parish Council Report
3. Report of Diocesan Delegate to the Parish Assembly
4. Women's Guild Report
5. Sunday School Report
6. Choir Report
7. ACYOA Report
8. Building Fund Report
9. Financial Report and Proposed Budget
10. Auditing Committee Report