

ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN CHURCH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MINUTES - ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

JANUARY 28, 1973

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The annual parish assembly was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by the chairman of the 1972 annual assembly, Col. George Juskalian, who invited His Grace, Bishop Papken, to deliver the opening prayer.

Mr. Phillip O'Gulian was elected the new chairman and Mr. Casper Kasparian the new secretary. The minutes of the January 30, 1972, were read and approved and Dr. Sirpouhi Essefian, the secretary of the 1972 assembly, was commended for the excellent minutes she had prepared.

The chairman, Mr. O'Gulian, stated that although all parishioners are eligible to attend this meeting, only members who had fulfilled the membership dues requirement would be qualified to vote. He then read the list of qualified members presented to him by the Parish Council treasurer, Mr. Vaughn Sayian. It was established that 49 out of 97 qualified members answered the roll call, thus a quorum (at least one-third of qualified members) was certified as present. (Subsequently, qualified membership count was revised to 103 and the qualified members who voted in the elections numbered 57.) His Grace Bishop Papken commented that this was the best attended St. Mary's assembly meeting he had seen.

The chairman asked Bishop Papken to give his annual report which His Grace delivered in Armenian. (His written report as well as all others are attached hereto.) His Grace stated that he had presided at 60 parish meetings. He reported one baptism, one confirmation, one wedding and three funerals for the parish in 1972. He said his continued efforts to encourage parishioners to participate in the Armenian Church custom and rite of house blessing had not met with high response. He has continued in his duties as Primate's Legate with the help of his committee. Because of being in the nation's capita many requests for personal assistance are received from throughout the country with the result that much of his time is consumed in these tasks. Many inquiries on the Armenian Church and the Armenian people are also received from non-Armenians. He stated that the Diocese has encouraged Sunday exchange of pastors and he has received inquiries from several priests who would like to visit Washington. He stressed the need for a membershi drive. The most important factor in successful parish life, His Grace stated, is unity. He thanked the Parish Council and the Women's Guild for their outstanding efforts.

The Parish Council chairman, Mr. Abraham Bodourian, read his report in which he reviewed the Church's activities for the year, including the two picnics and the highly successful bazaar. He congratulated the Women's Guild for introducing a New Year's Eve dinner-dance which was a social triumph. He thanked each of the Parish Council members for their support and various parishioners for special efforts exerted throughout the year.

Mr. O'Gulian asked whether the work in the stairwells will be completed. Mr. Bodourian said the sheet-rock will be painted and the rear stairwell will be finished also. He also said the lavatories will be remodelled. Mr. Jack Andonian said the work required by D.C. fire inspectors will be completed the following week at an estimated cost of \$2,100.00.

Mr. David Andonian, the ACOYA treasurer, presented the ACOYA report in the absence of its chairman, Miss Linda Fried. The report reviewed the year's activities of our youth group, including the first dance held in 15 years which was a fine success. He reported an opening balance of \$62.00 on January 1st and a closing balance of \$766.83. (An additional \$119.50 was received from Christmas card sales in January 1973.) Mr. O'Gulian commended the ACOYA and congratulated them upon their outstanding financial efforts.

Mr. Ashod Krikorian next gave the Choir report. He reported that two new members joined the choir in the past year and there was improvement in the choir under Mr. Edward Sourian's leadership. Elections in May resulted in Mr. Krikorian being elected as chairman and delegate to the Choir Assembly; Mrs. Dorothy Small, secretary; and Mrs. Lillian Kasparian, treasurer. The Choir's fiscal balance in January 1972 was \$488.50 and on January 30, 1973, it was \$522.10.

Mr. Casper Kasparian, Superintendent, gave the Sunday School report. He suggested a need for more desire on the part of parents for Christian educational knowledge for themselves which would then result in an increased interest in the education of their children. He thanked the teachers for outstanding devotion to their work.

Mrs. Jean Sayian gave the Women's Guild report. She announced a membership of 59 with average meeting attendance of 25, one new member has joined in the past year. The report recounted the many Women's Guild events held during the year, including the very successful New Year's Eve dinner-dance which netted \$637.36. The opening balance in January 1972 for the Women's Guild was \$720.74 and the closing balance was \$1,374.26. An additional \$2,307.02 is deposited in a savings account. During the year the ladies gave \$1,500.00 to the Parish Council; \$70.00 to the Building Fund; spent \$50.00 for the Sunday School; and expended \$281.00 for kitchen supplies. The Women's Guild has agreed to finance renovation of the lavatories. Mr. O'Gulian commended the ladies for their

fine work, commenting that "howsoever go the ladies so goes the Church". He suggested a concentrated effort to increase the membership of this important church organization.

Col. Juskalian delivered the Diocesan Delegates' report which included the highlights of decisions taken at the May 1972 Diocesan Assembly held in Watervliet, N.Y.

Mr. Edward Onanian presented the Building Fund Committee report. The total income for 1972 was \$3,192.65 and mortgage payments totalled \$2,969.32. The balance as of December 31, 1972, was \$12,328.56, and with the 1972 bazaar income received in January 1973 (approximately \$3,700.00), the current financial assets are \$15,846.24. Since the mortgage balance is \$13,300.00, the mortgage could be liquidated at any time. Mr. Onanian suggested liquidation of the mortgage should be dependent on whether we plan to buy new property.

Subsequent to a half-hour luncheon break, the meeting resumed with Mr. Vaughn Sayian presenting the church financial statement and the proposed budget. Last year's disbursements totalled \$21,581.11 and income was \$24,532.22. The proposed budget for 1973 is \$23,500.00. Several detailed questions were asked concerning the budget and financial statement and were satisfactorily answered by the church treasurer. The proposed budget was accepted by the assembly.

The chairman of the Nominating Committee, Col. Juskalian, presented a slate for the various offices. The Parish Council had decided to reduce the number of Diocesan delegates to one in accordance with the Diocesan by-laws because the number of our parishioners is less than 125. A motion was made that two delegates be elected subject to approval of the Diocesan Council. The motion carried. Several nominations were made from the floor. Ballots were given to qualified members and were collected by the tellers appointed by the chairman.

Under old business, the report of the Site Committee was discussed by its chairman, Mr. Casey Kazanjian. The Site Committee appointed at the August 1972 special assembly, in its report, discussed the general situation pertaining to a proposed relocation. It was suggested that the Parish Assembly develop a definitive plan of action or close the matter. Mr. O'Gulian defined the question as whether we move from the present church site or not. He asked that pro and con speakers present their views on this vital issue. Several parishioners voiced their opinions as to why a move is necessary. The main considerations in favor of relocating were summarized as: Safety; more adequate facilities for church social and athletic activities; more adequate classrooms; looking to the future, especially in view of rising property values in the city environs; and providing an attractive environment for the youth. Some negative comments were expressed which included a questioning of safety anywhere in the metropolitan area. It was also suggested that new and expanded facilities could be built at the present site.

In response to a comment that some concerned parishioners were not present, it was pointed out that many of these same parishioners in August insisted that the Site Committee be re-appointed but they were not present now to consider the question given to that Committee.

It was suggested that a group of far-sighted parishioners in years past decided to take the bold step of buying the present church site, now a new generation is similarly looking ahead to the future.

A proposal was made as follows:

"The Parish Assembly favors the purchase of property suitable for a church and agrees to the sale of the present church to finance the purchase and development of the new property. A Site Committee of five members shall be established to search for property. This committee shall present its recommendation with the necessary financial plan to a special Parish Assembly when it is ready to do so."

A closed vote was taken. There were 37 affirmative votes and 6 negative votes. A roll call was taken after the vote. There is attached a list of members with annotations to indicate the 43 members who voted on this question.

The election tellers reported the election results as follows:

Elected to:

1) Parish Council

Sarkis Satian
Sahag Dedeyan
Dicran Jamgochian
Jack Kalayjian

Alternate Members

Jack Hananian
Jack Andonian

2) Diocesan Delegates

Casper Kasparian ✓
George Juskalian ✓

Alternate Members

Abraham Bodourian
Ashod Krikorian

3) Auditing Committee

Edward Onanian
Vaughn Sayian
Vartkes Broussalian

4) Nominating Committee

Casey Kazanjian
Clara Andonian
Charles Kumkumian

Mr. O'Gulian appointed the following Site Committee:

Jack Andonian
Casey Kazanjian
Casper Kasparian

He asked that these members appoint the other two members of the Committee.

The matter of Bishop Papken's intended departure from the Parish which he announced at the 1972 Assembly was brought up. The authority of the Parish Assembly on such a question was reviewed. The Parish Council chairman indicated that a parish priest may resign, the Primate may transfer him, the priest may be re-elected for a five-year term, or the Parish Assembly may ask a pastor to resign. Bishop Papken's first five-year pastorate term at St. Mary's will be completed in January 1974. Since the current intentions of Bishop Papken on this matter were unknown (Bishop Papken had departed earlier in the meeting to fly to New York City to a special Diocesan benefit affair), the following motion was presented.

"The new Parish Council will meet with his Grace Bishop Papken to determine what his intentions are regarding his tenure at St. Mary's parish and to take appropriate action, if necessary."

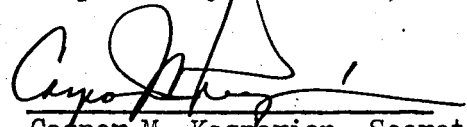
The motion carried.

Col. Juskalian asked the Assembly's advice on the Diocesan by-laws changes he would like to present to the 1973 Diocesan Assembly. The proposal to clarify the dues payment requirement and the proposal to change membership requirements for delegates to provide for two delegates for churches having less than 100 members were approved. The proposal to delete the restriction of parish council member tenure to three consecutive terms was disapproved. Mr. Bodourian stated that Diocesan delegates may make proposals irrespective of advice they receive from their parish. Col. Juskalian also discussed the St. Vartan's Stewards program. He said that letters had been sent to parishioners on this matter.


Mr. Casey Kazanjian suggested that the Women's Guild assume the responsibility of increasing Sunday School enrollment and encouraging timely and regular school attendance, thus relieving the Sunday School staff of these duties.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Casper M. Kasparian, Secretary

Approved by:


Phillip O'Gulian
Chairman, Parish Council


Rt. Rev. Bis. Papken