

MINUTES OF
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1976

In absence of Colonel George Juskalian, Chairman of the 1975 Parish Assembly, the meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Dr. S. A. Essefian, Chairman of the Parish Council. Dr. Essefian invited Father Artoon Sempadian to deliver the opening prayer and bless the assembly.

Dr. Essefian then asked the assembly to observe a moment of silence for the deceased parishioners and read the following names: Mr. Mihran Mesrobian, Mr. Michael Melkisetian, Mrs. Hngaper Arkoian, Mrs. Louise Hewett (nee Maranian), and Mrs. Artemis Bogosian. Father Artoon Sempadian offered a prayer for these members who had passed on since the last meeting.

Mr. Gary Avedikian, Treasurer, was then asked to take roll call and of 134 paid up voting members 65 were present at the meeting.

The following were unanimously elected to conduct the business of the Parish Assembly: Mr. Philip O'Gulian, Chairman, Dr. Edward Onanian, Vice Chairman and Miss Ann Kavookian, Secretary.

Mr. Philip O'Gulian commended the Parish Council for mailing the reports in advance of the meeting. Since all the reports were mailed out prior to the meeting, a motion was made and seconded that we dispense with the reading of the reports. A vote was taken by a show of hands with all in favor.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted with commendation.

Mr. O'Gulian then appointed Mr. Raymond Babigan and Mr. Vartkes Broussalian to serve as tellers for the election.

Mr. James Barouyrian made a motion that Dr. S. A. Essefian and Miss Ann Kavookian be commended for their work on the Parish Council and requested that they re-consider running for the Parish Council. Both ladies declined.

After the vote was taken for five new Parish Council members to serve two years, one new Parish Council member to serve one year, three people for the Nominating Committee and three people for the Auditing Committee, the meeting was adjourned for lunch until 2:45 p.m., with the request that the parishioners return back promptly at that time.

The meeting was again called to order at 2:50 p.m., with Mr. O'Gulian asking each chairman to give a very short resume of their reports.

Mr. Gary Avedikian, Treasurer, explained the Budget for 1976. He stated the proposed budget was kept as low as possible even though we expect our expenses to go up much higher. Mr. Avedikian said that we did

not increase the dues, however, everyone is asked to give at least 5-10% more this year. He also suggested that more parishioners consider being stewards as our assessment is reduced by \$100.00 for each steward from St. Mary's. Mr. O'Gulian reiterated the importance of raising our pledges and dues voluntarily. Dr. Edward Onanian explained that the salary of our priest is one item which is very low. He advised that according to the directive from the Diocese, the base wage effective January 1, 1976, is \$7,840.00, plus we must pay additional amounts for each three-years of service in the Diocese, as well as housing, car, etc. (The schedule of Clergy Stipends was printed in the January 1976 issue of Shnorhali.) He stated if and when we do get a new priest we must pay a higher salary, more in the vicinity of \$14,000-\$15,000. Each member of the parish should consider raising his dues and pledges for 1976. The budget was accepted as proposed.

Dr. S. A. Essefian, Chairman of the Parish Council, went briefly over the Parish Council report and again thanked all of the subordinate groups for making the year such a successful one. Mr. Jack Andonian asked for an explanation of the Inventory in her report, especially the item on books in the pastor's office. She explained that all of the books have been removed from the office and that not even one book remains. Mrs. Oghda O'Gulian commended the Parish Council for taking the inventory, which she commented should have been done many years ago. It was suggested that items in the church have an identification showing that they belong to St. Mary's.

Mr. Abraham Bodurian, Diocesan Delegate, went briefly over the items of separate diocese in Canada and the unity of the two sees. He was asked about the secretary's salary, part of which the Legate's Council usually pays and he said that this inquiry must be directed to Colonel George Juskalian.

Dr. Edward Onanian, Chairman of the Building Fund, advised that monies for the Building Fund still came from "In Lieu of Flowers" and one-half of the Bazaar profits. He stated that the mortgage will be paid by October 1976. Mr. Ashod Krikorian asked if a "Mortgage Burning" event was being considered and if so Archbishop Torkom Manoogian should be approached now so that we can be assured of his presence. Mr. O'Gulian said this subject should come up under "New Business".

Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Chairman of the Bazaar, reported that again we realized a greater profit than last year. He summed up his report with, "We had those who worked and those who watched the workers". He added more people should be involved with our biggest money-making project.

Mrs. Marguerite Satian, Chairman of the Women's Guild, said she did not expect to say anything since everything was in her report but she did state that the Women's Guild would like to see more new members and more people involved in Church projects. Also they would like to see the profits from their various endeavors used for something permanent, such as changing the yellow plastic coverings in the sanctuary to something more attractive. Dr. Edward Onanian said that the Parish Council

should be consulted before undertaking any projects since the Parish Council probably had a list of priorities and all expenditures should be cleared through the Parish Council.

Mrs. Clara Andonian gave the Women's Guild treasurer's report in the absence of Mrs. Jean Sayian. She was asked to explain the \$921.63 miscellaneous item. She said that this money was used for supplies sold at the bazaar and the money was returned to their treasury. They have \$3,257.91 on hand as of January 1, 1976.

Mr. Jack Andonian, Choir Chairman, added to the Choir Report that a Church Organist was needed and the new Parish Council find an organist to serve the Church on a regular basis. The name of Master John Krikorian was mentioned. As for the new robes, the Choir Association has discontinued this service. However, it is understood that they do have a few robes left and will send samples for which the Choir is now waiting. These robes will be purchased with funds from their treasury which has \$621.43 as of December 31, 1975.

Dr. Charles Kumkumian, Superintendent of the Sunday School, again stressed the importance of participation by parents. It is very necessary to bring their children to Sunday School every Sunday as well as to provide transportation for other children. Parents should not deny their children good Christian education as a part of their upbringing.

Miss Cindy Broussalian, Co-Chairman of the ACYOA, said they are striving for new members as all of their senior members had left the organization. They need to get more involved in more serious programs of the Church. She asked parents to provide transportation so that the members can attend the meetings, socials, etc. Also, she asked for support of their social functions by the parishioners. They have \$720.75 in their treasury.

Dr. Edward Onanian, Chairman of the Auditing Committee, advised that all books were audited and that all monies were in order.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that all reported be accepted as submitted.

Under "Old Business", Mr. Armen Garabedian, Chairman of the Committee to define "Benefactors" for the Benefactors Plaque, advised the assembly that the committee recommends we remove the plaque since the committee could not come up with a definition "even after referring to Webster's Dictionary". He made a motion that the recommendation of the committee to remove the plaque be accepted. The motion was seconded and vote was taken by a show of hands. 29 were in favor of removing the plaque and 9 against.

Mr. Jack Andonian made a motion which was seconded that the plaque be used as a memorial plaque for deceased members. Vote was taken by a show of hands. 21 in favor of motion and 10 against. A motion was made to amend the motion to read "members in good standing". This motion

did not pass. Mr. Casey Kazanjian asked that the new Parish Council take the amendment into consideration and present a decision to the next Parish Assembly.

Under "New Business", Mr. Jack Andonian made a motion which was seconded that we discontinue putting aside \$100 each month in the Cultural Fund as we now had enough money in the fund for this purpose. The motion passed.

Dr. Essefian again this year stressed the need for an annex, (1) because of the shortage of classrooms for the Sunday School and (2) we need additional space. Mrs. Bella Kazanjian said that the mortgage is almost paid and we need something to keep our members enthusiastic with a goal to work toward and this would be a good project - "Let's do something". Dr. Edward Onanian said that we have nothing concrete to discuss - we must have more facts. He said that this assembly must authorize an amount of money to be spent to bring back concrete facts to the next assembly, and that this assembly appoint a committee for this purpose and hold a special meeting if necessary before the assembly. The following ideas were expressed:

1. Appoint a committee whereby they look into the feasibility of a new annex.
2. Look into new property.
3. See if another church is available for purchase.
4. The committee be authorized to spend necessary money to get the information.
5. Report back within a certain length of time.

Dr. Edward Onanian made the following motion, "That this Parish Assembly appoint a committee of five to seek a solution to the space needs of St. Mary's Church and that this committee be authorized to spend up to \$1,500.00 and report back by October 1, 1976." The motion was seconded. Vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion passed. The following volunteered to serve on this committee: Mr. Jack Andonian, Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Mr. Casey Kazanjian, Dr. Edward Onanian and Mr. Sarkis Satian. Mrs. Oghda O'Gulian volunteered to serve as secretary for this committee.

The results of the election were as follows:

Five Parish Council Members to serve two years

Mr. Robert George (43)
Dr. Edward Onanian (43)
Mr. Philip O'Gulian (42)
Mr. Jerry Hekimian (32)
Mr. Jack Kazanjian (31)

One Parish Council Member to serve one year

Dr. Charles Kumkumian (23)

Nominating Committee

Mr. Abraham Bodurian (40)

Dr. Ohannes Sahakyan (40)

Mr. Casey Kazanjian (37)

Auditing Committee

Mr. Raymond Babigan (43)

Mr. Vartkes Broussalian (30)

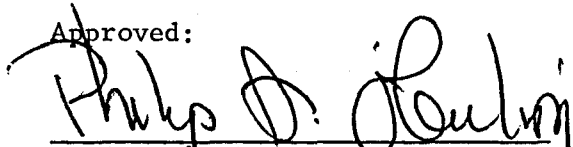
Mr. Vaughn Sayian (31)

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,


Ann-H. Kavookian, Secretary

Approved:


Philip O'Gulian, Chairman

Approved:


Dr. S. A. Essefian, Chairman of the
Parish Council