

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY  
ST. MARY'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1978

The Annual Parish Assembly convened in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. after a lunch served by the Women's Guild following the Divine Liturgy. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Edward Onanian, Chairman of the Parish Council.

Our pastor, Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian opened the meeting with the request that everyone join in the reading of the prayer. Mr. Jerry Hekimian, Acting Secretary, took the roll call and of the 120 <sup>dues paying</sup> ~~paid up~~ members, 55 were present which constituted a quorum.

After the roll call, Dr. Onanian called for nominations from the floor for Chairman of the Assembly. Dr. Charles Kumkumian and Valentine Stahl were elected without opposition to serve as chairman and secretary, respectively.

Suggestion was made to change the order of the reports as they appeared on the agenda, namely, that the Nominating Committee report and elections be held after the Women's Guild Report. A motion to this effect was made, seconded and carried.

At the last Assembly meeting, January 1977, the Chairman, Dr. Kumkumian, had suggested that hereafter copies of the minutes of the previous year's Assembly be included in the Annual Report booklet sent to the parishioners. The Parish Council had prepared and mailed the Annual Report booklets in time to reach members prior to the meeting, but somehow the US Postal Service failed to deliver them in time. Copies of the booklet were distributed at the Assembly for a brief review. In the interest of time, the 1977 Assembly meeting minutes were not read aloud. Mrs. Shirley DuChessi made a motion to accept the minutes as published in the booklet, which was seconded and carried.

## REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT. The Pastor's Report was not read aloud, however, Rev. Kalayjian emphasized its highlights: Sacraments and home blessings: over 125 home visits and more than 20 hospital and home visitations to ill parishoners; publications: Shnorhali was expanded to include an Armenian section. Rev. Kalayjian expressed his appreciation and deep gratitude to the Parish Council, Women's Guild and all the auxiliary organizations for their unstinting help during his first year of residence in the greater Washington D. C. area. His report lauded the Choir, Sunday School superintendent and staff, ACYO, Hye Club and Ararat Avak Society. He urged the members to support a new program initiated by the Parish Council on his recommendation - Project Reach Out (P.R.O.). Sunday School enrollment increased 100% over last year. Dues paying members increased to 120 from 110; an increase in voting membership to 133 is expected in 1978.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT. Dr. Onanian briefly summarized the accomplishments of the Council during 1977. It greeted a new Pastor, bought a Parish house, initiated Project Reach Out and encouraged the establishment of the Hye Club. In spite of various problems, the past two years have been good years.

Church Maintenance. A variety of maintenance needs received attention during the year, including problems with the furnace, office equipment, and organ. Dr. Onanian noted that our needs in this area are many and urged members who can help in our repair efforts to volunteer their services. The Council made an inventory of maintenance needs late in the year, and it may call on individual members to come and do repair work in the church from time to time.

Landscaping. Landscaping on the 42nd Street side will be done in the Spring by the ACYO who will assume the cost.

Space Needs of Church. In 1976, the Space Committee commissioned an architect to see what could be done with our existing building and property to meet the space needs of the church. The architect submitted a report in early 1977 to the Committee, but its consideration was deferred during the search for a Parish house, and was not fully resumed by year's end.

Financial Report. This report shows a deficit of \$5200 which is not a matter of great concern provided it is not repeated in 1978. The Parish Council has repeatedly asked members to voluntarily increase their pledges, and many members are now responding to that appeal. Operating expenses alone amount to \$700 a week.

Parish Council Treasurer's Report. The Annual Bazaar made \$9,000 in 1977 which was divided equally between the Parish Council and Building Fund. Mr. Casey Kazanjian questioned the "Diocesan Dues" of \$3791. Dr. Onanian stated that the assessment was about \$4800, and explained why the Parish Council decided to pay a lesser amount to the Diocese. Our Pastor made a practice of repeating the discussion in Armenian for the benefit of those who did not understand English too well.

BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE. Dr. Onanian pointed out the cost of the Parish House, \$62,000; mortgage of \$49,600 at 8.75% = payment of \$390.35 per month; and that the Building Fund should be able to meet these payments as long as Bazaar income remained at its present level. The report was accepted. Mr. DuChessi made the suggestion that we have fund-raising affairs about every other month to help reduce this mortgage at such a high interest rate.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Pastor's and Parish Council's reports. The motion carried.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY. Mr. Abraham Bodurian briefly reviewed the items in his report, i.e., "Unity Project" and Diocesan Budget and Finances, It was accepted.

WOMEN'S GUILD. In the absence of Mrs. Dorothy Small, Mrs. Queenie Avedikian reported on the activities of the Women's Guild. Report was accepted.

NOMINATIONS. Mrs. Avedikian reported that many members had been approached to serve on the Parish Council. The names of those who accepted appeared on the ballot. The Assembly was informed ~~that~~ that nominations from the floor was permissible. After a few persons were proposed to Parish Council and who declined, Mr. DuChessi made a motion to accept all the nominations submitted on the ballot, for Parish Council, seconded by Casey Kazanjian. Ms Isabelle Goshgarian made a motion that all nominations for Parish Council be accepted unanimously. It was carried. Results of balloting for the Nominating and Auditing Committees appear below. Dr. Kumkumian commended the Nominating Committee for selecting such highly qualified persons and congratulated them on a job well done.

A review of voting members revealed that 63 were present <sup>and</sup> voting.

PARISH COUNCIL

- Gary Avedikian 48
- John Azhderian 52
- Levon Garabedian 49
- Edward Jamgochian 51
- Sirarpi Ohanessian 51
- (elected unanimously)

AUDITING COMMITTEE

- Ray Babigian - 40
- Casey Kazanjian - 36
- Jerry Hekimian - 35

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- George Derderian - 40
- Edward Onanian - 34
- Jack Kazanjian - 27

Votes cast for other nominees to:

AUDITING COMMITTEE

- Robert George - 30
- Vartkes Broussalian - 24

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

- Abraham Bodurian - 24
- Armen Garabedian - 18

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT. Dr. Kumkumian made a few statements on the report stressing the need for adequate classrooms. The report was accepted as presented.

CHOIR REPORT. Mr. Jack Andonian announced that two new members had joined the choir and that 20 additional robes are needed. Report was accepted.

HYE CLUB. Mr. Michael Tashjian reviewed the highlights of the activities. In answer to Jack Kazanjian's question of the age bracket, Mr. Tashjian replied that it was approximately from 18 - 35 or 40 yrs. The Chairman commended Mr. and Mrs. M. Tashjian for an outstanding job with the Hye Club. Report was accepted.

ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY. Miss Astrik Aznavorian informed the Assembly that there was no financial report to submit but the Society had \$100 in its savings account. Her report was accepted.

PROJECT REACH-OUT. Mr. George Derderian gave a brief outline of the goals and objectives. The Chairman commended Mr. and Mrs. G. Derderian for their unselfish efforts for PRO.

AUDITING COMMITTEE. Mr. R. Babigian presented the Report which was accepted. Our Pastor suggested that the Auditing Committee review the books every six months instead of once a year in order to provide guidance to the treasurers of the various organizations.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Space Committee. Mr. Jerry Hekimian presented a report which outlines the options available to the parish, and recommended that we build on the lot adjacent to the church. He noted that this recommendation was endorsed by a majority of the Committee. Immediately following this report, Dr. Onanian stated that this issue should be discussed at a meeting convened for that purpose only. Accordingly,

he moved that we accept the Committee's report, and that the Parish Council call a Special Parish Assembly in February to consider the Committee's recommendation and take appropriate action. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Primate. The Assembly agreed to discuss a proposal presented by Casey Kazanjian that the Assembly instruct its Diocesan delegates to vote for Archbishop Manoogian to serve another term as Primate. Since we have no information currently on the state of candidates, the Assembly accepted a substitute motion that a Special Parish Assembly be held at a later date when the candidates are known to provide guidance to our Diocesan Delegates on this issue.

PROPOSED BUDGET. Dr. Onanian presented the proposed budget of \$34,500 for the calendar year 1978. He noted that to date 68 people had pledged about \$7800 which averages over \$100 each. The proposed budget and the accompanying memorandum of understanding with the pastor were accepted as presented. In closing the Chairman thanked the outgoing Parish Council for its excellent work and cooperation with all committees and activities in the past year.

Everyone joined in the closing prayer; the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Valentine (Bostonian) Stahl  
Valentine (Bostonian) Stahl  
Secretary

Charles Kumbumian  
Charles Kumbumian, Chairman

Father Vertanes Kalayjian  
President

F. V. Kalayjian