

St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D. C.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly

Sunday, February 23, 1986

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D. C. was called to order at 1:05 P.M., in the Sanctuary, by Mike Tashjian, the Parish Council Chairman.

Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian offered the opening prayer which was immediately followed by a roll call of voting members. Out of 168 members eligible to vote, 55 were present, thereby constituting a quorum.

At the invitation of Mike Tashjian, the Nominating Committee Chairman, Dr. Charles Kumkumian, submitted the name of Col. George Juskalian for Assembly Tivan Chairman. Mr. Raffi Karahisar was nominated from the floor as Secretary. The nominations were closed and the Tivan was elected through a secret ballot:

Chairman:	Col. George Juskalian	-	49 votes
	Mr. Carl Bazarian	-	1 write-in vote
Secretary:	Mr. Raffi Karahisar	-	50 votes

Col. Juskalian thanked the Assembly for the honor and privilege of serving as chairman and proceeded with the agenda.

AGENDA

The suggestion was made from the floor that the verbal reports avoid duplicating the information already submitted to the Assembly in the typewritten mailouts and handouts, and only be concerned with additional issues or answering questions.

MINUTES OF THE 1985 ASSEMBLY

Der Hayr stated that the supplements referenced in the minutes were distributed separately. Mr. Gary Avedikian pointed out that, in the Bookstore report, the statement that read "the bookstore items are priced at 20% over the cost price" is not accurate, and that it should read "St. Mary's share of the profit is the 20% discount received from the publisher."

The minutes were accepted as corrected.

1985 REPORTS FROM PASTOR AND CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors' Report

Chairperson Roxanne Kumkumian thanked Der Hayr and the Parish Council for their support. The report was accepted as presented.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Der Hayr thanked the Parish for the 25th Anniversary Banquet given in his honor. The report was accepted as presented.

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Outgoing Parish Council Chairman Mike Tashjian thanked the Parish for the support he had received during his tenure on the Council. The report was accepted as presented.

DIOCESAN DELEGATES

The report was accepted with no discussion.

WOMEN'S GUILD

Der Hayr reminded the parishioners that the Women's Guild was still waiting for the community's response on the issue of the Armenian community telephone directory. The report was accepted with no discussion.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School Superintendent Mrs. Anna Derderian pointed out that Mrs. Rita Bush's name was inadvertently omitted from the teaching staff. The report was accepted as corrected.

ARMENIAN SCHOOL

Treasurer Mr. Raffi Karahisar reported that the second set of figures at the bottom of the Financial report are for the School Year 1984 - 1985 (the title was omitted) as opposed to the first set of figures, which are for the calendar year 1985. He also reported that a line item of \$1,211.00 for donations was omitted under the Receipts column (for the school year report), although the amount was included properly in the total of \$5688.75. The report was accepted as corrected.

CHOIR REPORT

Der Hayr reported that the Parish Council had selected Mr. Socrates Boyajian for the position of Choir Master. However, since Mr. Boyajian was unable to assume his responsibilities immediately due to his schedule and personal commitments, Der Hayr had set up a rotating plan for Choir Masters between Yeretzgin Anahid Kalayjian, Dr. Hratch Semerjian and Mr. Socrates Boyajian. The report, which was distributed under separate cover, was accepted as presented.

HYE CLUB REPORT

Mr. Mike Tashjian reported that the Club had 50 active members with seven officers. He commented that the group had been involved in cultural and athletic activities, keeping the youth together and raising funds (\$14,000 has been contributed to St. Mary's up to the present). He also clarified the item on the Special Memorial Lunch mentioned in the Financial Report. The report was accepted.

ARARAT AVAK SOCIETY

Der Hayr reported that the Avak Society meets regularly, and that over the years the Society has made an annual \$500.00 donation to St. Mary's. He added that the group is a loosely organized entity, resisting attempts to hold formal elections for officers. He mentioned Mrs. Kumkumian, Mrs. Avedikian, Mrs. Kevorkian, Mrs. Gueriguan and Yeretzgin as some of the members who have volunteered their time to keep the group active. The report was accepted.

A.C.Y.O.A. SENIORS

Der Hayr reported that A.C.Y.O.A. Seniors were having a difficult time keeping the chapter alive and active. He mentioned that, despite some problems, the Seniors had participated in a number of activities, including the Archbishop's Basketball Tournament, the A.C.Y.O.A. Sports Weekend, and had just co-sponsored with the Women's Guild, a most successful Parentan Dance, raising \$1,200. Mr. Greg Kumkumian had submitted a written proposal requesting the Assembly to consider the question of hiring a full-time youth director. It was moved to consider the proposal under new business. The report was accepted.

CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The report was accepted as presented.

ARMENIAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

Col. George Juskalian, on behalf of Committee Member Mrs. Mary Perkins and himself, gave an oral report, announcing that Mr. Arthur Dadian of Washington, D. C. had made an additional donation of \$75,000, with the proceeds earmarked for St. Nersess Seminary. Der Hayr added that he and Yeretzgin had donated the proceeds from the 25th Anniversary Banquet (which amounted to \$2500) to the Fund with the provision that the income be used to subsidize the expenses of young people wishing to attend St. Nersess Seminary. The report was accepted.

BUILDING FUND

Dr. Ed Onanian reported that the available funds were enough to meet the outstanding expenses (such as mortgage and loan payments), but that there were no funds available for further projects. He also pointed out that a large plaque had been placed in the Church Hall recognizing the major contributors to the new building. Mr. Jeannette Torokhanian reported that the available funds for the outside landscaping beautification had run out and that more was needed to plant additional shrubs.

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Responding to a question from the floor, Mrs. Torokhanian reported that the kitchen renovation was complete as far as the original funds committed to the project. This included replacing the kitchen stove and dishwasher, changing the sinks, with plans to get an additional sink and possibly a dish caddy. She estimated that the walls will be finished by Easter. The discussion that ensued included several comments from parishioners. It was pointed out that there is a need for a master design for the kitchen by a professional, also that a detailed account on the \$14,000 spent so far was not submitted. The tremendous amount of work done by Mrs. Torokhanian and Mr. Koukeyan on the kitchen renovation was acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. Further discussion was deferred until New Business.

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL, AUDITING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Chairman Dr. Charles Kumkumian announced several additions and deletions from the original list presented by the Committee, which included Mr. Abe Bodurian and Miss Ann Kavookian. Nominations from the floor were entertained. After the nominations were duly closed the election took place from the newly printed ballot. See Attachment #6 for the names and number of votes each candidate received.

OLD BUSINESS

On the subject of the Bingo, Parish Council Chairman Mr. Mike Tashjian reported that the plans to hold Bingo games were not pursued any further due to a lack of sufficient volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was passed to have the Parish Council present a report, within the next six months on the feasibility of hiring a full-time youth director.

A motion was made that "the Parish Council take steps toward the placement in the church vestibule of a plaque which will record significant dates in the history of the church and recognize the individuals who played a major role in the events commemorated. A design of the plaque and the contents shall be placed on display and published in the Shnorhali for parish review before final action is taken. Every effort should be made to have the project completed by the end of December 1986." An amendment was proposed that "the final design be reviewed and approved by the Parish Assembly." The amendment was rejected, with 17 votes in favor and 23 votes against. The motion itself was approved as presented.

A letter to the Parish Council, signed by a number of parishioners (see Attachment #2) was brought to the attention of the Assembly, requesting consideration of installing an elevator in the Sanctuary, to serve the needs of our handicapped parishioners. It was pointed out that the entrance to the church needed additional attention because of problems during funerals. Other suggestions included a wheelchair ramp and stair-climbing wheelchairs. A motion was made and approved to refer this matter to the Parish Council.

A motion was made to entertain a written proposal submitted to the Assembly by Ms. Mary Vartabedian (see Attachment #3), designating the first Sunday in November as Parish Priest Day, a day to be celebrated by each parish in appreciation of its priest. The motion to consider the late submission of the proposal was accepted and the proposal itself was later accepted for forwarding to the Diocesan Assembly.

At this point, further discussion was held on the issue of the renovation of the kitchen. Some felt that finishing the renovation should be given more priority even if it meant committing more funds. Others pointed out the need to keep the kitchen clean and in order after every function, by leaving instructions for our part-time caretaker/janitors. A motion was made to have the Executive Committee of the Women's Guild, the Parish Council and the Construction Committee get together to work towards the completion of the kitchen renovation. The motion was accepted. Donations toward the renovation were gratefully acknowledged from the Peter Gabrielian and Dr. Albert Manian families (\$500 from each).

Der Hayr brought to the Assembly's attention that, in the Pastor's Report, he had designated Mrs. Jeannette Torokhanian as the "Volunteer of the Year."

TREASURER'S REPORT

Assistant Treasurer Mr. Nishan Dulgarian pointed out a few typographical errors in the Annual Report; the figure of \$25,815.55 for the Pastor under the Expenses column is both for the stipend and mileage allowances; the Hokehankist receipts should be \$2893.00. Dr. Ed Onanian commented that without the rug sale St. Mary's would have been in financial trouble. He also deplored the fact that not enough members are usually present for the budget discussions which are usually at the end of the Assembly's agenda. The Treasurer's was accepted as corrected.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Mr. Raffi Karahisar reported that the Auditing Committee which also included Dr. Albert Manian and Dr. Ed Onanian, had examined the reports, and briefly inspected the books and bank statements of all church organizations, except for the A.C.Y.OA. Seniors. The reports were found to be in order with the following exceptions: a) Portions of the Armenian School report in the handouts had some items inadvertently omitted, as reported earlier (see Armenian School Report); b) In the A.C.Y.OA. Junior report, the amount for the Palm Sunday donations should be \$278.00 and the term "Net Income" is a misnomer and should be replaced by "Closing Balance;" c) The Hye Club check book needed reconciliation with the bank statements. A discrepancy of \$14.03 was reported to the Hye Club officers. The report was accepted.

BUDGET

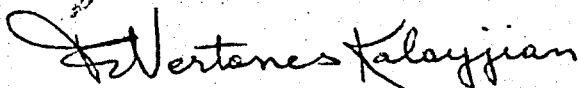
Assistant Treasurer Mr. Nishan Dulgarian pointed out some of the items that were left blank in the proposed budget for 1986, such as anticipated income from a rug sale, or stipend for Choir Master, because no final decisions have been made on these issues. Mr. Mike Tashjian informed the Assembly that the 1986 budget will also be underwriting the travel expenses for the

Pastor, to allow him to participate in the Clergy-Continuing Education programs. The proposed budget for 1986 was approved.

At 5:20 P.M., as a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, Mrs. Queenie Avedikian took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the work done by Yerezgin, and urged more participation by male parishioners for volunteer work around the church.

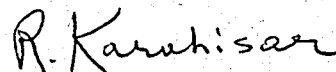
Der Hayr thanked the outgoing Parish Council members and Mr. Mike Tashjian and congratulated the newly-elected officers. He then offered the closing prayer and Assembly was adjourned with 24 members still present.

Respectfully submitted,

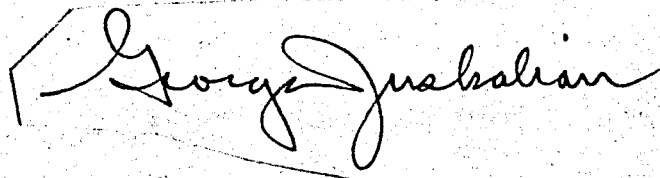


Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian
President

George Juskalian
Chairman



Raffi Karahisar
Secretary



ATTACHMENT # 3

New Business

Propose to elect first Sunday in November as "Parish Priest Day."
Each Parish would celebrate the appreciation of their Priest.

In doing so Parishes would be aware of the services of their Priest rather than waiting till 25 years have gone. It would also be a time to make aware the need for Priests and the rewards of entering the Priesthood. (It could also be Priest Awareness Day).

By

Mary Vartabedian