

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church  
of Washington, D.C.  
Minutes of the Parish Assembly  
Sunday, February 1, 1987

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D.C. was called to order at 12:50p.m., in the Sanctuary, by Dr. Hratch Semerjian, the Parish Council Chairman.

Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian offered the opening prayer and a special prayer in the memory of Mr. Ghevont Aghajanian, Mr. Neshan Hintlian and Mrs. Esther Kavookian, who passed away in 1986. This was immediately followed by roll call of voting members. Out of 166 members eligible to vote 54 were present, thereby constituting a quorum. Two more joined in later bringing the total to 56. At the invitation of Dr. Hratch Semerjian, the Nominating Committee chairman, Mr. George Derderian, submitted the name of Dr. Charles Kumkumian for Assembly Tivan chairman; Mrs. Ayda Semerjian was nominated from the floor as Secretary. The nominations were closed and the Tivan was elected through a secret ballot.

Chairman: Dr. Charles Kumkumian - 51 votes  
Mr. Philip O'Gulian - 1 vote (write-in)  
Secretary: Mrs. Ayda Semerjian - 49 votes  
Mrs. Valentine Stahl - 1 vote (write-in)

Dr. Kumkumian thanked the Assembly on behalf of the Tivan for the honor and privilege of serving the Assembly and proceeded with the agenda.

Agenda:

The comment was made from the floor that placing nominations at the end of the agenda resulted in fewer members voting and it was suggested that it should be done before most people leave. Dr. Hratch Semerjian explained that for this reason the nominations would take place before the reports.

Dr. Kumkumian commented that the Parish Assembly should have started on time and that the duration be limited to reasonable time.

Minutes of the 1986 Assembly.

The minutes of the 1986 Assembly were approved.

Nominating Committee Report.

Mr. Derderian, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a list of Nominees for the Parish Council, Nominating and Auditing Committees. There were a few withdrawals such as Mrs. Blanche Manian and Miss Sirarpi Ohannessian from the Nominating Committee, and Dr. Vartkes Broussalian from the Auditing Committee. Mr. Levon Andonian was nominated for the Parish Council. Mr. Robert George, Jr. declined the nomination for Parish Council. For the Auditing Committee Dr. Edick Pezeshkian and Mr. Robert George, Jr. were nominated. The full list of the nominees for the election is attached.

Reports.

Since most of the printed reports had been mailed to the members prior to the Assembly, the reading of the reports was dispensed with by all.

#### Pastor's Report.

Der Hayr added a note of thanks for the past year's successful conduct of church affairs and called for increased participation and response. He acknowledged especially the presence of two of the younger voting members, Mr. Levon Andonian and Mr. Robert George, Jr., who had responded to his (Der Hayr's) letter of invitation to attend their first Parish Assembly. He also acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Knar Janigian, one of the founding members of the Parish, and the only one attending. He called upon the other young parishioners present to join actively to pick up the torch. Der Hayr's report was accepted as presented.

#### Parish Council's Report.

Dr. Hratch Semerjian, Chairman of the Parish Council, highlighted his report with the following remarks:

- Parish Council members attended the regularly scheduled meetings faithfully and with a much higher percentage of participation than in past years.
- Thanked Mr. Berj Koukeyan, who has left the community to settle in Los Angeles, California, for all the supervision and care he provided for the building maintenance.
- Welcomed Mr. Vartkes Keshishian, who replaced Mr. Joseph Vartebedian who had resigned.
- Welcomed Dr. Socrates Boyajian, who had assumed the responsibilities of Choir Master earlier during the year.
- Plans for the final phase of the kitchen renovation were completed. Acknowledged the \$10,000. donation made by the brothers Armen and Aris Mardirossian.
- Noting that the 1986 Bazaar was the most successful (with 10% increased profit over the previous year) he thanked the Co-Chairpersons:  
Mrs. Helen Fried and Mr. Berj Koukeyan for a job well done.  
Also to Mrs. Mary Perkins for the excellent promotion-publicity she had done in the local media.
- Thanked Mr. Mike Tashjian who assumed several responsibilities:  
Rug Sale, Picnic, New Year's Eve affair and was instrumental in their huge success.
- Introduced an amended version of the "Memorandum of Understanding" between the Parish Council and Fr. V. Kalayjian. It is attached.
- Informed that the project Reach Out is under study by Mr. Carl Bazarian, Lucy Murad and Rosemary Arkoian, who, as a committee, are to coordinate activities to enlarge our church membership and member participation in church life.

His report was accepted as presented.

#### Diocesan Delegates.

Dr. Edward Onanian stated that the Delegates' report had been presented verbally at the special Parish Assembly held in June, 1986. The copy of that report was distributed.

#### Building Fund Committee.

Dr. Edward Onanian, Chairman, reported an income of \$52,599.94 against expenses of \$21,327.81. It was noted that there are several items that will require large amounts to be completed. For such items, the restricted and/or reserved funds total \$54,713. They include the kitchen parish house, sanctuary roof and mortgage/loan payments (1987) etc.

He emphasized the need for more consistent and generous individual donations, particularly in establishing an Endowment Fund.

A comment was made by Mrs. Jeannette Torokhanian that parishioners should

The outcome, he stressed, was not encouraging. We learned about the experience of other parishes, larger than ours, that were not helpful as role models. He also pointed out the difficulties that arise from our church being at the center of a geographically dispersed metropolitan area; the parents' cooperation, or lack of it, in bringing their youth to the organized activities.

A discussion followed about the feasibility of what can or must be done. After a few clarifications, there emerged a consensus that we need to move on this subject to secure a good solution. The suggestion that the committee for PRO (Project Reach Out) pick up the matter and come up with a solution was received with reservation. A motion was offered by Dr. E. Onanian that: "That this Assembly establish a committee composed of Dr. C. Kumkumian, Mr. G. Derderian and Mr. P. Murad, and any other members the committee wishes to appoint, to explore the feasibility of securing the services of a Parish Youth Director. This committee shall report to the Parish Council by May 1, 1987, and the Council, if it deems it appropriate, shall call a special Parish Assembly on the matter by June 1, 1987". The motion passed.

#### New Business.

Dr. Onanian noted that there were no proposals or amendments brought to the Parish Council's attention prior to the assembly. Dr. Kumkumian presented two proposals:

- a. That the minutes of the Parish Assembly be sent to the members as soon as we receive the Primate's approval.
- b. That every parishioner who desires to become a voting member should fill a form that provides for information on the individual and makes him/her aware of the responsibilities of membership.

Both proposals were received for discussion. It was agreed to distribute the minutes as proposed. With regard to the forms, it was pointed out that such forms were sent to over 300 families in December, 1986. Out of 166 voting members only about forty forms have been returned, some covering more than one member. If we had strictly applied our intentions, only the members noted on those forms would have been eligible to vote. The need to respond to such appeals and instructions was stressed over and over. The assembly recommended that this matter be sent to the Parish Council for further consideration.

A brief was presented by Mr. Carl Bazarian on the status of a proposed membership drive. He stated that the committee -- Mrs. Murad, Mrs. Arkoian, and himself -- are studying the PRO material and will attempt to come up with a less ambitious plan to revive the interest of the membership and their participation. He commended the background work done by George and Anna Derderian almost ten years ago.

The lack of a detailed Bazaar financial report was pointed out. The Parish Council will either publish it in the next Shnorhali or distribute it with the minutes of this assembly.

#### A.C.Y.O.A. Srs.

Mr. Michael Sahakian, Chairman, thanked everyone for the support and encouragement he and the Committee received. He then presented the Parish Council with a contribution for the church in the amount of \$750.

Dr. Semerjian added that on the first weekend of May the Seniors are sponsoring the "Archbishop Torkom Manoogian Trophy-Basketball Tournament"; and that the whole community is encouraged to attend the Friday and Saturday, May first and second, dance and banquet, respectively. These affairs are for the whole community, he stressed. The report was accepted as presented.

#### A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs.

On behalf of the Chairman, Levon Broussalian, Mrs. Lucy Murad highlighted the report. It was accepted as presented.

increase their individual contributions in the spirit of tithing as is mandated in the Bible.

#### Elections.

The revised ballots were printed and distributed. The election took place according to the roll call with a secret ballot. The Auditing Committee was called to assist the Nominating Committee in the collection and tabulation of the results. The meeting resumed as the ballots were taken by these committees to be counted.

#### Parish Council - Treasurer's Report.

Dr. Edward Onanian, Treasurer, presented the report of \$113,953.38 income against \$90,066.50 expenses -- but noted that the gross figures are misleading, as some of the income is earmarked for specified purposes. Further, he stated, if we did not have the income from the Rug Sale, which the Parish Council reluctantly considers necessary, our operating budget would have shown a considerable deficit, and our year-end uncommitted balance would have been less than \$3,000.

#### Proposed Budget.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Dr. Edward Onanian presented the 1987 Budget. It was a lean budget of \$88,260. in expenditures, compared to the actual \$86,086. expended last year. On the income side, we are anticipating \$88,260., as against \$97,351. in 1986, this takes into account a three-year average of Rug Sale income rather than the exceptionally high income of last year. The budget was approved.

#### Organizational Reports (Cont'd).

##### Women's Guild Report.

Yeretzgin Anahid Kalayjian, Chairlady, thanked Mrs. Helen Fried, the Vice Chairlady, and all the other members for working very hard, and wished to see more people participating in the Guild Activities and projects. The report was accepted as presented.

##### Church School Report.

Mrs. Anna Derderian, Superintendent, expressed her appreciation of the staff and commended the students for doing their job voluntarily. The report was accepted as presented.

##### Armenian School Report.

Mr. Raffi Karahisar, mentioned the change in day and schedule of the Armenian School. It is now being held on Sundays. He stated that they have made several book orders, and that they have \$3,000. loaned to the Parish Council. Mr. Jerry Hekimian later added that the switch to Sundays resulted in an increase of seven students and that more are expected. The report was accepted as presented.

##### Choir Report.

Mrs. Queenie Avedikian expressed her wish to see more young blood volunteering to sing in the choir. The report was accepted as presented.

##### Old Business.

Dr. Charles Kumkumian brought up the subject of a "Youth Director" which was discussed at the 1986 Parish Assembly, when the Parish Council was given the responsibility of looking into the feasibility of having one. It was acknowledged that at the June, 1986 Special Parish Assembly an interim report had been given.

Dr. Hratch Semerjian related Der Hayr's, Parish Council's and representatives of the ACYOA Srs.--Mr. M. Sahakian and Mr. G. Kumkumian--meeting with James magarian, Exec. Director of the ACYOA (since then he has resigned the post).

Hye Club.

The report was given orally by Mr. Mike Tashjian. The only activity they were involved in was the New Year's Eve celebration which they presented on behalf of the Parish Council. It brought in a net income of \$4,200. which they turned over to the Building Fund. The Hye Club's up-to-date contribution to the Building Fund now totals \$18,000. The report was accepted as presented.

Ararat Avak Society.

In the absence of any report or representative, Der Hayr informed that the group meets on the last Thursday of each month. Der Hayr already had thanked in his report, Mrs. Arousiag Kumkumian, Coordinator, and Mrs. Elizabeth Kevorkian, Treasurer, who with a few volunteers keep the group active. The report was accepted as presented.

Bookstore.

Mr. Gary Avedikian, Manager, informed that \$2,000. profit was given the Parish Council. Dr. Edward Onanian acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that goes into keeping a bookstore which, he added, is probably "The best in the Diocese. Yeretzgin joined in acknowledging the indispensable role Mrs. Queenie Avedikian plays in doing the secretarial-correspondence work. The report was accepted as presented.

Armenian Church Endowment Fund -- Parish Committee.

On behalf of Mrs. Mary Perkins and himself, Col. George Juskalian, co-Coordinator, expressed thanks for the past and current contributions made to St. Mary through the ACEF. He encouraged all to establish such funds through the Committee or Col. Victor Arzoumanian the Executive Director of the Fund, or through Der Hayr. He urged keeping the income of the Funds unrestricted so that the Parish may use the proceeds as needed. The report was accepted as presented.

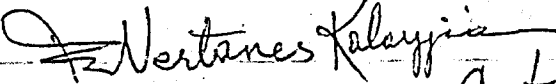
Auditing Committee Report.

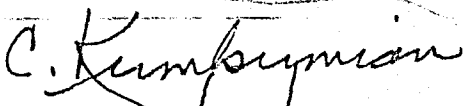
Mr. Jerry Hekimian, on behalf of the Auditing Committee, gave out a report card on all organizational financial statements and their bookkeeping. The adoption of a uniform year-end financial statement was stressed. The Committee had found all the treasurers' reports reviewed in order; a few reports had yet to be reviewed. The report was accepted as presented.

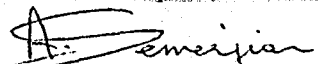
Announcement of Election Results.

Mr. George Derderian announced the results. (See the attached sheet).

Der Hayr expressed his and the parishioners' thanks to the Tivan, the outgoing Parish Council members: Dr. Hratch Semerjian, Mrs. Jeannette Torokhanian, Mr. Berj Koukeyan, Mr. Joseph Vartabedian, and welcomed the newly elected members. A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. With Der Hayr's prayer and benediction the meeting was adjourned at 3:50p.m.

  
Fr. V. Kalayjian  
President

  
2/9/87  
Dr. Charles Kumkumian  
Chairman

  
Mrs. Ayda Semerjian  
Secretary

1986 Bazaar Committee Financial Report  
1985 Figures are included for comparison

<u>Receipts:</u>	1986	1985
Luncheons	\$ 8,219.	\$ 6,280.
Carry-out, appetizers	5,344.	3,053.
Dinners	6,683.	5,946.
Bake table	6,777.	6,528.
Arts and Crafts	2,812.(1)	3,725.
White Elephant	922.	1,042.
Rug Raffle	2,598.	2,946.
Rug Sales	2,745.	4,622.
Donations	190.	515.
Post Bazaar Sales (2)		547.
Candle Light Services (3)		2,670.
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Total	\$ 36,290.00	\$ 37,874.00
 <u>Expenses:</u>		
Food and related	\$ 10,343.	\$ 9,450.
Bashian & Sons (Rugs)	1,966.	3,460.
Raffle	778.	1,119.
Ads., Posters	71.	149.
Labor	400.	380.
Trash removal	209.	330.
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Total	\$ 13,767.00	\$ 14,888.00
 <u>Net Gains: (3)</u>		
	\$ 36,290.	\$ 37,874.
	- 13,767.	14,888.
	<u>\$ 22,523.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,986.00</u>
 <u>Distribution of Funds:</u>		
Parish Council	\$ 10,700.	\$ 11,493.
Building Fund Committee	11,800.	11,493.
	<u>\$ 22,500.00</u>	<u>\$ 22,986.00</u>

(1) Includes \$237. from Arts & Crafts Raffle.

(2) 1986 Post-Bazaar sales are not listed separately.

(3) Candle Light Service contributions are not included in this report.