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St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church
Washington, D.C.
Minutes of the Parish Assembly
Sunday, January 29, 1989

The Annual Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D.C. was called to order at 12:40 p.m. in the Sanctuary by Lucy Murad, Chairperson, Parish Council. Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian offered a special prayer in memory of Sarkis George Semerjian, Guroz Azderian, Deacon Arshavir Hovhannessian and Thomas Koulakjian. The opening prayer was then said in unison. This was followed by a roll call of voting members. 55 voting members were present out of 168 voting members, constituting a quorum. Dean Shahinian for the Nominating Committee conducted the election of the Tivan. Nominations were taken from the floor for offices of Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly. With a secret ballot, the following were elected: Chairman: Dr. Edward Onanian (31), Paul Murad (22), Dr. Charles Kumkumian (1); Secretary: Elizabeth Kayaian (44), Raffi Karahisar (1).

Dr. Onanian expressed thanks for the honor and privilege of serving the assembly and proceeded with the agenda. He designated Dean Shahinian as Parliamentarian.

The agenda was accepted.

Minutes of the 1988 Assembly: 1988 minutes were approved as presented.

Minutes of the 1988 Special Assembly March 6, 1988: George Derderian, offered the following substitute language in absentia for paragraph two "Mr. George Derderian presented slides of drawings prepared three years ago and are the result of four to five years of effort. The sanctuary renovation effort has been in existence for eight years". There being no objections to this change, it was approved. Mr. Derderian also proposed the inclusion of the following statement... "the motion which was approved included a deadline for completion of the work. That deadline was June, 1988". This was not approved.

Nominating Committee Report: Dean Shaninian outlined the duties of the following positions: Parish Council, Diocesan Delegate, Nominating Committee, Auditing Committee. The full list of nominees for the election is attached. Mrs. Murad remarked that at the last Parish Council meeting, it was decided that the Alternate Diocesan Delegate would be the representative to the Diocesan Committee on the 75th Anniversary of the Genocide. Nominations for office were closed after the following actions: nominations from the floor for Arut Koseian and Arto Hovhannessian for positions on the Parish Council; the withdrawal by Armen Garabedian and Edward Onanian from the slate for Diocesan Delegate and

the withdrawal of Karen Dates from the slate for Auditing Committee.

Pastor's Report: Der Hayr expressed his gratitude to the congregation for the productive year. He is proud and gratified that this community came through for special projects, especially the Earthquake and that donations are still coming in, and, that even though we were not organized to handle it, the hard work done by many parishioners is evident. He stressed the mutual dependence we have on each other and on the Church. We have had a successful year with the dedicated members of the Parish Council under the leadership of Lucy Murad. She has accomplished alot of unfinished business such as the Library, and the computer. We had a successful Bazaar and Rug Sale. Cultural and religious activities were all in order. There is room to do more and hopefully next year we will continue in the same tradition. We had both excitement and tragedy this past year, that is, Karabagh and the Earthquake. It will be an historic occasion when the two Catholicoi are present together in New York when Vehapar Vasken I will celebrate the Badarak and deliver the sermon and Vehapar Karekin II from Antelias will deliver a special message. For our purposes, there are a few outstanding issues that will hopefully be clarified during Vehapar's visit. One that is receiving much attention with universal appeal is the post-quake orphan situation. We will hopefully have clarified how to become benefactors or guardians of these children.

The Parish's ad-hoc committee for the Earthquake will be augmented and given a permanent status for a year so that they will carry on and coordinate out activities with the PC. There will be a report later from Vaughn Sayian on the financial contributions to this point.

The written report was accepted as presented.

Parish Council: Presented by Lucy Murad, Chairperson, Parish Council. This was a financially successful year ending with the budget \$9,000.00 in the black. She thanked all PC members and volunteers on special projects, especially Shnorhali with new editors Mark Krikorian and Grace Shahinian, Dr. Socrates Boyajian for computer expertise, Bazaar and Rug Sale volunteers. The report was accepted as presented.

Diocesan Delegate: Presented by Dr. Onanian. The written report was accepted as presented. Der Hayr requested Dr. Onanian to amplify on the effort for unity. Dr. Onanian reported that the Diocesan Unity Committee met with members of the Prelacy Executive Council in late October and on December 10, 1988. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 1989.

Earthquake Relief Treasurer's Report: Vaughn Sayian reported

on finances for the Armenian Diocese Earthquake Fund. Through last week deposits totalled \$289,289.09. Transferred to the Diocese on January 6,9, and 26, 1989, was a total of \$285,000.00. Expenses were as follows: printing-\$936.00, Washington Post ad-\$100.00, postage-\$826.00, misc. expenses-\$58.00. The balance is \$2368.00. Interest accrued-\$115.00. Approximately 100 checks are still undeposited with approximate value of \$8,000.00. Gross receipts are approximately \$300,000.00. Most of the donations have been from non-Armenians. Almost 3000 checks have been processed.

Mr. Sayian thanked his wife Jean, and Dr. Socrates Boyajian for their assistance. Out of this vast reservoir of donations, there has been only one bounced check for \$11.50. The largest donations were from a couple in Laurel, Maryland for \$10,000.00 and a man in Virginia for \$5,500.00. Letters of confirmation/appreciation went to all donors who had an address on their check or envelope.

A question arose as to how the money will be distributed in Yerevan. Dr. Onanian reported that no money will leave the Diocese until we get instructions from Vehapar Vasken and then only with the consent of the Diocesan Council.

Building Fund Committee:The written report was accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 1989:Arthur Omartian, Treasurer, Parish Council, presented the report.

The memorandum of understanding between the Parish Council of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, D.C. and Reverend Vertanes Kalayjian was approved as presented.

The treasurer reviewed the proposed budget which was approved as presented. Approved along with the budget was the following proposal by the Parish Council calling for the transfer of \$10,000.00 to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund.

Proposal 1. With the intention of bequeathing the fruits of past and present efforts to the benefit of future generations in our church, we propose that an Endowment Fund be established at the Diocese for St. Mary's Armenian Church, to be initiated by the budgeted allocation of \$10,000 operational surplus from the calender year 1988. The Fund principal will be carefully preserved and grown by means of voluntary contributions, optional allocations from operational surpluses determined by the Parish Council, and optional retention of earnings as determined yearly by the Parish Council.

There were six charitable fund outlays in 1988 totalling \$1,410.00.

Dr. Onanian invited Col. Victor Arzoomanian to report on contributions to the ACEF. Col. Arzoomanian thanked Der Hayr for his support and words of wisdom since he began his service as Executive Director of the Armenian Church of Washington, D.C.

close to 500 donors with about \$8 million in assets. He thanked Col. George Juskalian and Mrs. Mary Perkins for their collaboration as Parish Coordinators. He mentioned several parishioners as well as Der Hayr and Yeretzgin who have contributed funds for the benefit of St. Mary's.

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The Treasurer's report was accepted.

In response to a question, Der Hayr amplified his report on his activities ad the Visting Pastor of Atlanta, Georgia.

Organizational Reports

Women's Guild: Yeretzgin Kalayjian presented a summary of the report. She announced that St. Mary's Women's Guild was the first runner-up in a national contest sponsored by the Women's Guild Central Committee to see which group had performed best in devising new activities. The first prize went to the WG of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Church, Bayside, New York which is a very large church. She expressed her pride and thanks to all members. The written report was accepted as presented.

Sunday School: The written report was accepted as presented.

Choir: Presented by Karen Omartian. The group has plans for a special vocal and musical recital on April 23, 1989 to commemorate Martyr's Day. The written report was accepted as presented.

ACYO Jr-Sr: No representatives were present.

Shnorhali: Presented by Grace Shahinian. She thanked all of the contributing editors, Der Hayr, Lucy Murad, donors for expenses, advertisers and others for their kind words of encouragement for the new Shnorhali. The paper has raised about \$1,200.00 for the Church. Der Hayr appealed to the congregation to add \$25.00 each to their annual pledge for the maintenance of the excellent quality of the Church publication.

Avak Society: Ann Kavookian presented a summary. \$200.00 was donated to the Church. Steering Committee members: Margaret Garabedian, Roseann Alexander, Ogda D'Gulian, Vergin Sahakian, Elizabeth Kevorkian, and Alice Kumkumian arrange montly social-cultural activities and luncheons for senior citizens. The report was accepted.

My Kinsmen Program: This program, initiated by the Diocese, calls on local parishioners to provide temporary housing and assistance to newcomers to the community, especially students. The report by Mary Vartabedian in a recent Shnorhali is current.

Bookstore: The written report was accepted as presented.

St. Mary's Armenian Church Balian Library: Presented by Euffy Kayaian. The Library continues to grow. She emphasized her willingness to meet the people's needs for Library services at any time. She strongly encouraged more use of the

collection by the congregation, as much of what is available here is not available anywhere else. The written report was accepted as presented with one correction. The collection of Armenian patents is complete prior to 1920.

Armenian School:presented by J. Hekimian. The report was accepted.

Armenian Church Endowment Fund:Mary Perkins reported. No further questions.

Old Business:none.

New Business:Lucy Murad presented an explanation of the following proposal offered by the PC:

Proposal 2. Whereas certain parishioners advocated the purchase of recently available property adjoining the church grounds and, the advocacy being favorably received by the Parish Council, were requested to demonstrate their enthusiasm and advance their cause by preparing answers to a set of relevant questions; and, whereas the catastrophic earthquake of 1988 deterred the resolve of those good parishioners and inhibited fulfillment of their best intentions, we propose that a 3-member standing committee for the exploration, analysis and recommendation of real estate and other investment opportunities for St. Mary's Parish be appointed by this Assembly for a period of one year.

Much discussion ensued about the language of the proposal and about the use of the house should it be purchased. It was moved and approved to delete the phrase "and other investment" on line eight in the original proposal and to have the PC appoint members of a Real Estate Committee for a one-year period. The proposal was accepted as amended.

George Derderian presented in absentia the following proposal for a long range internal and external master plan for sanctuary renovation:

Proposal 3. Resolved that a long-range master plan be prepared for the internal and external renovation of the church sanctuary. Such a plan shall include:

Internal renovation that is whole in design and concept and assures Armenian architectural design features for the alter and sanctuary.

External design that carries an Armenian church typology and is compatible with the existing church structure complex.

Access for the handicapped and elderly.

Improved access for funerals.

The plan shall be developed by a Sanctuary Renovation Committee selected by the Parish Council. The Sanctuary Renovation Committee shall study and...

designs and approaches through review of drawings and dialogue with those responsible for the development of prior designs before proceeding with the development of architectural designs and long-range plans. (7)

Funding for this project shall be limited to \$2,000, which is the prior limit set by the Parish Assembly; and may be expanded by no more than \$2,000 additional sum by the consent of the Parish Council.

A discussion ensued about non-notification of members of an earlier committee of its informal dissolution. Another discussion took place re the word "prior" in the third line of paragraph two of the proposal and an amendment was offered and accepted to delete the word. The proposal was then accepted as amended, without the word "prior" in the third line.

Auditing Committee: The committee went through the books of the various Church organizations and found them mostly correct and in order. Dr. H. Semerjian offered observations about the state of the financial books of the ACYO Juniors. The suggestion was to keep close supervision over the ACYO Jr.'s accounts. Thanks went to Arthur Omartian for doing a marvelous job keeping track of all the many accounts and for doing generally a terrific job. Dr. Onanian asked the Auditing Committee to see that the ACYO Jr. books are in conformity with other groups. Mrs. Murad suggested, and Dr. Semerjian volunteered to be the responsible adult to monitor the ACYO Jr. accounts.

The report was accepted as presented.

Election Results: By the Assembly's action today, the Parish Council will be appointing members to serve on the following committees: Real Estate Committee, Sanctuary Renovation Committee and an Earthquake Relief Committee.

Results of the election are as follows: Elected were:

Parish Council: Raffi Sahakyan (42), Arut Koseian (41), Onnik Janjigian (40), Arto Hovhanessian (38) and Dr. Edward Bodurian (36)-alternate.

Diocesan Delegate: Dean Shahinian, Esq. (38), Dr. Hratch Semerjian (19), Dr. Ohannes Sahakian (18)-alternate.

Nominating Committee: Carl Bazarian (30), Robert George, Jr. (29), Shake Babashanian (28), Stepan Mermer (28)-alternate.

Auditing Committee: Raffi Karahisar (48), Mary Perkins (46), Levon Andonian (33), Raymond Babigan (20)-alternate.

Der Hayr responded to a question by Paul Murad re request to have appreciation dinner for local fire and rescue teams. The original plan was to have a joint appreciation with the Armenian Assembly, AGBU, and Soorp Khatch and that Armen Garabedian was coordinating. Soorp Khatch did theirs alone. The ad hoc committee felt it would be too close to have another one. We may have the opportunity for some sort of presentation if Vehapar Vasken comes to Washington to climax all the other events.

Dean Shahinian expressed to Der Hayr collective thanks and respect of the congregation for his untiring and consistent guidance, leadership, and enthusiasm during these unprecedented and tragic times in our history.

Der Hayr expressed appreciation to Dr. Sahakian and Dr. Onanian for their services as Diocesan Delegates in representing our Parish honorably. He congratulated the newly elected Parish Council members and new committee members. He expressed thanks to the outgoing Parish Council members, reluctantly, saying "I want people to be repeat offenders and come back."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Onanian
Dr. Edward Onanian
Chairman

Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian
Fr. Vertanes Kalayjian
Pastor-President

Elizabeth A. Kayaian
Elizabeth A. Kayaian
Secretary