

MINUTES
OF
PARISH ASSEMBLY OF
ST. MARY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
FEBRUARY 20, 1994

The Parish Assembly was called to order at 12:45 p.m. on February 20, 1994. The meeting was opened with a prayer. The reading of the role revealed that 66 out of 250 dues paying members were present, enough to constitute a quorum. Charles Kumkumian and David Sahr were nominated to serve respectively as Chairman and Secretary of the Assembly. The Assembly approved their selection by secret ballot.

1. Minutes of 1993 Assembly

The minutes of the 1993 assemblies dated February 6, 1993 and March 20, 1993 were approved without comment.

2. Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presented the list of nominees for Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Finance Committee as set forth in the Annual Report to the Parish Assembly. A motion was made to close the nominations, the motion was seconded, and the nominations were closed. The Nominating Committee prepared and distributed the ballots.

3. Pastor's Report

Der Hayr highlighted the main points of his report contained in the Annual Report. He discussed the need to assist immigrants from Armenia and the important role that St. Mary's plays in the Nation's Capitol to represent the Armenian Church to visitors from the Armenia Republic. He discussed the upcoming dance and lecture series and encouraged parishioners to attend these activities. He thanked Yerezgin for her assistance with his duties. In the question and answer period, there were discussions concerning ways to improve attendance at the various activities sponsored by the Parish and on increasing membership and involvement in the Church.

4. Parish Council Report

Parish Council Chairman Stephen Ohanian summarized the report of the Parish Council. He thanked each Parish Council member and Der Hayr for their work over the previous year. Der

Hayr expressed his gratitude for Mr. Ohanian's service as Chairman over the last two years. With respect to unfinished business, Mr. Ohanian reported that the report of the Renovation Committee was still in preparation and that a special Parish Assembly meeting would be held in the near future to discuss renovation of the Church.

5. Diocesan Delegate's Report

Dean Shahinian presented the Diocesan Delegate's Report including an update on the unity discussions between the two Armenian Churches in the United States. He reported that the next Diocesan Assembly would take place end of April in Houston, Texas and that the primary topics on the agenda would be unity, election of the primate and the budget. During the discussion period, parishioners discussed the prospects for achieving unity and the procedures followed by the Diocese in raising funds for Armenia. One parishioner asked what was being done to increase the number of clergy so each parish would have its own clergy. Mr. Shahinian indicated seven to eight students were currently at St. Nerses seminary and that the church is continuing to try to attract people to serve in the parishes. Because of concerns expressed that the unity discussions were not proceeding successfully, it was agreed that St. Mary's should consider preparing a statement of its position on the unity issue. Der Hayr said he would follow up on this matter. A motion was made to accept the Pastor's, Parish Council's and Diocesan Delegate's Report, and they were unanimously accepted.

6. ACYOA Junior's Report

George Guiragossian presented the ACYOA Junior's Annual Report. In addition to numerous activities over the last year, he reported that ACYOA had donated \$1,500 to children in Armenian, \$150 to the homeless in the District of Columbia and had transferred \$3,000 to the Parish Council. He gave special thanks to Yeretzgin and Der Hayr.

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget

Beth Tuntunjian and Hagop Safak presented the Treasurer's Report and the proposed budget. In response to a question as to why it appeared that the Diocesan dues would be less in 1994 than in 1993, Beth Tuntunjian explained that in 1993 the payment had also included a \$10,000 payment due in 1992. The budget for the Shnorhali was also discussed and the present system of donations. Beth Tuntunjian reported that all major bills had been paid including the Diocesan dues and that the Bazaar for 1993 was incorporated in the Treasurer's Report. Ed Onanian raised a question about the fairly high level of expenditures devoted to utilities in the proposed budget. It was agreed that the Parish

Council should review the Church's use of utilities to ensure that utilities are being used effectively. George Derderian requested clarification as to how the Parish Council plans to use monies in the charitable fund. He distributed a copy of the charter of the charitable fund to remind members of the Assembly as to its original purposes. The Parish Council was tasked with the duty of reviewing use of monies in that account. Hratch Semerjian pointed out that the charitable and the other restricted funds should not be used to balance the budget and suggested that further improvement should be made to keep better track of restricted funds. He noted that the Treasurer's Report was improved from past years and that the finances of the Church were now being kept on the computer. Arto Hovanessian questioned the telephone bill of \$3,068, suggesting it was too high. Der Hayr reported that the downstairs telephone has been cut off from long distance service as a step to ensure unofficial calls are not billed to the Church.

Lucy Murad gave a brief report on Winter Rescue. \$17,000 had been spent last year in sending aid to Armenian. Another \$21,000 was returned to the Church because additional shipments could not get through. The Church has forwarded the \$21,000 to the Diocese. Currently, Winter Rescue has \$4,500 in seed money for future fund-raising. The total expenses for last years' efforts were \$2,600. A motion was made to adopt the Treasurer's Report and 1994 Budget. They were approved unanimously.

8. Finance Committee Report

Ed Onanian gave the Finance Committee Report and discussed the establishment of a long term investment fund. The Committee's plan is to place \$5,000 monthly in a Fidelity mutual fund up to a total of \$50,000 at which stage the investment would be reevaluated. The intention is to generate enough income over the next decade to cover half of the expenses of the Parish. He also reported that the current mortgage on the Parish house has a \$30,000 balance and an 8.75 interest rate with 13 years remaining. The Committee reviewed but decided not to refinance the property.

9. Women's Guild

Lucy Murad reviewed the activities and current events of the Women's Guild. The Women's Guild is seeking to formalize a Visiting Committee consisting of members who could visit older members of the Women's Guild.

10. Choir Report

Arto Hovanessian gave the choir report. The choir is trying to take over from the Parish Council the obligation of paying the organist. He is also trying to put together a junior choir. Queenie Avedikian complimented Mr. Hovanessian on expanding the membership of the choir.

11. Shnorhali School

Linda Ekizian provided the report. Der Hayr stated the eventual purpose is to integrate the Sunday school and the Armenian school. On behalf of the Armenian language school, Raffi KARAHISAR expressed his appreciation for contributions by the members of the church.

12. THREE M ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Kenneth Kalunian summarized the report of the 3M Group.

13. Other Reports

Brief reports were given for AVAK, the Bookstore, the Library and the ACEF.

14. Audit Committee Report

Hratch Semerjian reported on the audit of the Parish Council, the Women's Guild, the Finance Committee, the Shnorhali, the 3M and other groups. He reported there had been improvement from last year's audit, but room remains for further improvement. The use of the computer has been very helpful. He recommended that the Parish Council handle the expenses for the Shnorhali. The other organizations continue to provide material to the Audit Committee which is not ready for auditing. Some of the organizations engage in cash transactions, i.e., they collect cash for certain items and then pay out cash without keeping any record of the receipt or payment. He emphasized the importance of getting receipts, writing checks and not paying cash. He said the Bazaar and rug sale was the best run in many years, and he gave special praise of Al Kaeh n for handling the Bazaar and the rug sale and for Beth Tuntunjian in improving the Parish Council accounts.

15. Election Results

The election results for the Parish Council, the Auditing Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Finance Committee are set forth below:

Parish

Vrouyr Aghmalian	51
Knarig Movsesian	50
David Andonian	49
Vartkes Kesishian	47
Garabad Grehian	37 (Alternate)

Auditing

Edward Onanian	49
John Kavookian	11 (Alternate)

Nominating

Linda Ekizian	38
Meline Kaehn	37
Queenie Avedikian	36
Zivart Bolat	35 (Alternate)
Janel Moosakhanian	32 (Alternate)

Finance

Lucy Murad	33
Eliz Vartabedian	26 (Alternate)

16. Old Business

Under old business Der Hayr reported that there would be a meeting soon on the renovation project report.

17. New Business

Dean Shahinian presented his proposal (copy attached) to be submitted to the 1994 Diocesan Assembly requesting the Diocese to publish a book in English and in Armenian on the Armenian Church's teachings on moral issues. There was extended discussion concerning the proposal. Ed Onanian proposed an amendment to the "rationale" for the proposal as follows:

Such a book would not necessarily provide 'yes' and 'no' answers but would inform our members of Church teachings relevant to these issues.

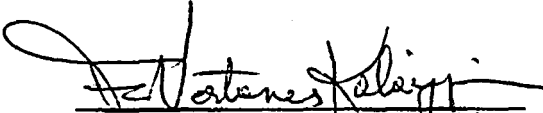
In addition, he proposed that the third sentence of the first paragraph of the rationale be deleted.

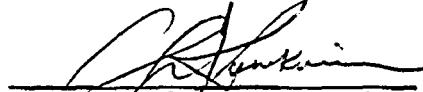
Dean Shahinian accepted this amendment, and the proposal passed 18-6.


18. Closing of Meeting

Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,


Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian
Pastor


Dr. Charles Kumkumian
Chairman


David R. Sahr
Secretary

Proposal to be Submitted to the 1994 Diocesan Assembly by
St. Mary's Armenian Church, Washington, DC.

PROPOSAL: The Diocesan Assembly directs the Diocese to publish a book in English and in Armenian on the Armenian Church's teachings on moral issues. The Assembly expects that this book will be published in whole by, or such parts as are completed distributed to the Diocesan Delegates at, the next Assembly.

Rationale: Armenians face moral choices in their professional, family and personal lives. A book of Christian teachings on such choices would be useful to Armenians. If the Church fails to offer moral guidance, Armenians making choices may either make bad choices or go to other churches or philosophies that offer moral guidance.

Publication of such a book would restore confidence, particularly among the young, that the Church is aware of and concerned about morality.

A book on the Church's teachings on moral issues would be of interest to many people, both lay and clergy. The Diocese has demonstrated the capability to publish books on a number of other subjects.

It is important to note that, in 1986, the Diocesan Assembly passed a similar motion. However, in the intervening eight years, such a book has not been published.