

## **Minutes of the Parish Assembly of St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church February 26, 1995**

The Parish Assembly was called to order at 12:40 p.m. on February 26, 1995. Der Hayr opened the meeting with a prayer. Der Hayr asked that our dearly departed and greatly missed parishiners Knar Janigian, Lt. Col. Kenneth Perkins, Astrik Aznavoran, Ebrouhi Brown, Herman Carson and Ogda O'Gulian be remembered. The reading of the roll revealed that 52 of the 224 dues paying members were in attendance which constituted a quorum. David Zenian and Linda Ekizian were elected by secret ballot to serve as Chairman and Recording Secretary of the Assembly, respectively.

### **1. Minutes of the 1994 Assembly**

The minutes of the 1994 Assembly were accepted without comment.

### **2. Nominating Committee Report**

The nominating committee submitted candidates for Parish Council, Auditing Committee, Nominating Committee and Finance Committee as set forth in the Annual Report to the Parish Assembly. Der Hayr expressed his disappointment with the quantity and with the absence of some of Parish Council nominees at the Assembly. Parish Council Chairman Brig. Gen. Albert Kaehn Jr. emphasized that nominees are fully aware of the responsibilities of service on the Parish Council which oversees the daily operations of the Church. A motion was made to close the nominations which was seconded and the nominations were closed. The Nominating Committee submitted the ballots.

### **3. Pastor's Report**

Der Hayr summarized the main points of his report contained in the Annual Report highlighting visitations of distinguished clergy, fundraising efforts as well as continued relief efforts for Armenia. Der Hayr expressed a desire to see that parish members welcome and assist in the acclimation new members of our Church who have arrived from Armenia. Der Hayr stated that fragmentation may result for the lack of effort in this regard. Der Hayr noted the success of the Bible Study sessions and welcomed greater participation. He was grateful for the response given for donations for earthquake victims in Japan. Der Hayr made an appeal to the parish for financial support. He noted that this is the 60th anniversary of St. Mary's and asked that the Parish Council propose ideas to mark this event. In closing, Der Hayr expressed his gratitude to the outstanding services of Yeretzgin and Brig. Gen. Albert Kaehn Jr. A discussion followed about the need for a revitalization of a membership drive. Dean Shahinian stated that Der Hayr is a member to the Diocesan Council and thanked Der Hayr and Yeretzgin for their guidance.

### **4. Parish Council Report**

Parish Council Chairman Brig. Gen. Albert Kaehn Jr. led the report by expressing his appreciation to the members of the parish council. He summarized the report as submitted in the annual report. He highlighted the success of the joint New Year's Eve Celebration and hoped that this will continue. The Bazaar is a fund raising event that has become increasingly difficult to execute. He stated that the economics and energy expended on the annual Bazaar should be evaluated. A review of the Church renovation project was presented as per the Annual Report.

It was emphasized that no additional work or expenditures will proceed without the consent of the Parish Assembly. The need for the increase of dues paying members was emphasized to support the financial needs of the Church. Special thanks were directed to Beth Tutunjian, Jerry Hekimian and Onnik Sivaslian for their support. In discussion, it was stated that the Parish Council, Renovation Committee and the Finance Committee must review and enter into deliberations on building and renovation expenditures. A motion was made for the acceptance of the report, which was seconded and the report was accepted.

**5. A.C.Y.O.A. Jrs. Report**

Rober Safak read the report as submitted in the Annual Report. He stated that membership has grown to thirty plus members and asked for more parent support. To further emphasize the use of the Library, it was suggested that book reports be part of the Merit Award Program requirements. The report and Financial Report was accepted as read.

**6. Diocesan Report**

Dean Shahinian presented the report which summarized the Assembly meeting which convened during April 28 to May 1 in Houston, Texas. He stated that there was no further progress on unity. He stated that 2.5 million dollars have been spent on Cathedral renovations. The A.C.Y.O.A. participants expressed their desire to receive support from the Diocese. There is friction between the Department of Youth Ministry and the A.C.Y.O.A. and a lack of response to the needs of the youth from the Diocese has caused considerable frustration. A Special Assembly has been called for the election of the Catholicos. Dean Shahinian was elected as a delegate and Der Hayr as an alternate. There has been no progress on the request to publish a guide to Church positions on issues. Dr. Kumkumian raised his concern that we lack guidance from the Diocese to embark on the 21st Century of the Church. Dean Shahinian and Der Hayr expressed disappointment in the Agenda of the Special Diocesan Assembly. Dean Sahinian recommended that we publish our concerns and proposals in Armenian/American newspapers which tend to receive the attention of the Diocese. In conclusion, Dean Shahinian stated that the Diocese is financially secure and is supported with the professional assets of our community offering a future potential that could be tremendous.

Der Hayr noted and thanked Clara Andonian for her services as our Parish Liaison to the St. Nersess Seminary, Mary Perkins and Col. George Juskalian as liaison for the Armenian Church Endowment Fund and Carl Bazarian who serves on the Board of Directors of DFAR and is Chairman of the Armenian Assembly.

A motion was made to accept the report, which was seconded and the report was accepted.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Beth Ann Tutunjian offered the Treasurer Report and the proposed budget. It was stated that FY94 showed a loss because 1994 Bazaar expenditures were reconciled in 1995. Cost control measures were enacted on telephone service costs by cancelling the long distance service on the phone in the kitchen. Also, SHNORHALI mailings were reduced and the reply cards for donations were a success. Candle shells were donated to cut the cost of the purchase of wax candles for the Sanctuary. A suggestion from the floor was made to review and upgrade the

thermostat system. Collection envelopes were discussed and it was recommended that envelopes be distributed at the Christmas celebration. An emphasis was placed on increasing dues paying members. A motion was presented to accept the report and proposed budget, which was seconded and the reports were accepted.

**8. Women's Guild Report**

Lucy Murad presented the report on behalf of the Women's Guild. She stated that the Embassy of Armenia has relied on the Guild for many of their affairs and stated that this is labor intensive work. The report was reviewed as submitted. The co-chairs of the Women's Guild for 1995 are Seta Sivaslian and Alice Baker.

**9. Choir Report**

Clara Andonian read the report as submitted in the Annual Report. Der Hayr recognized Dr. Socrates Boyajian and expressed our deep appreciation for the publication of "Revised Sacred Music of the Armenian Church" in two volumes. The Treasurer's report was distributed at the Assembly. In answer to an inquiry from the floor regarding expenses, Arto Hovanesian offered an explanation that money was spent to celebrate those members of the choir who have offered many years of dedicated service to the Church Choir. He emphasized the desire to have young children participate in the Choir as part of the spiritual growth which is the backbone of our Church.

**10. Shnorhali Report - Armenian Program**

Jerry Hekimian submitted the report as published in the Annual Report. A motion was made to accept the report, which was seconded, and the report was accepted.

**11. 3M Adult Fellowship Report**

The report was accepted as published in the Annual Report.

**12. Ararat Avak Society**

The report was accepted as published in the Annual Report.

**13. Shnorhali Report - Christian Education Program**

Linda Ekizian offered the report as published and displayed the Shnorhali School book bag. She thanked the new teachers, Teri Tossunian and Janel Moosakhanian for their enthusiasm and Yeretggin for the tremendous work she has done in educating our students during the half-hour assembly. It was stated that the Department of Religious Education of the Diocese completely supports our efforts as a school, through their publications, workshops and special projects throughout the year.

**14. Bookstore and Balian Library Report**

The reports were submitted as published in the Annual Report. It was stated that the current location of the library detracts from its use and a consideration is being made to for its relocation in the area of the old bookstore. Supervision of the room is recommended should the library relocate.

**15. Armenian Church Endowment Fund**

The report was submitted as published in the Annual Report. It was suggested that the specific purposes for each endowment (if any) should be identified in the Annual Report as it was done in the SHNORHALI newsletter.

**16. Finance Committee Report**

Ed Onanian presented this report by offering a historical overview of the foundation of the committee. It started as a building fund committee in the 1960 which received 50% of Bazaar proceeds for the purpose of building St. Mary's. The Parish Council receives the balance of proceeds. In the 1980's the Committee offered financial support to the renovations of the Church (to include air-conditioning). This was followed by the notion of renovating the Sanctuary. Following the earthquake in Armenia, investments were redirected for the purposes of relief. The proposed Endowment fund is established to meet 50% of Church operating expenses. The renovation project has been rejuvenated and the committee is waiting to see what the financial requirements will be to embark on expenditures and fund-raising campaigns. The Fidelity investment showed a loss for 1994 but the committee determined that since this fund was purchased as a long term investment, a withdrawal would be premature. A revised total expense contribution of The Finance Committee Financial Report was changed to \$77,443 through the funds established to memorialize Mrs. Ebrouhi Brown, Lt. Col. John Kenneth Perkins, Dr. Hovsep Yeni-Komshian and James and Angele Barouyrian. A motion was made to accept the report, which was seconded, and the report was accepted.

**17. SHNORHALI Newsletter**

Thanks were extended to Grace Sahinian for tremendous work and we offered our prayers for her full recovery.

**18. Auditing Committee**

Raffi Karahisar offered the report stating that the financial activity of the SHNORHALI is, unlike in other years, reported through the Parish Council's Treasurer's report audit. All active committees were audited and found to be sound. It was stated that the computerization of financial records is a great asset. It was suggested that each organization should be responsible for the monthly reconciliation of their bank statements.

**19. Election Results**

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

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Ara Avedisian 52  
Garabed Grehian 50  
Arto Hovanesian 52  
Paul Murad 51  
Evelyn Vartabedian 52  
Greg Murad (one year term) 52

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

Harry Derderian 30 John Kavookian (alternate) 22

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Souny Kodjanian 52

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Rita Bush 52 Siran Levonian 52 Janel Moosakhanian 52

**20. Old Business**

None to report

**21. New Business**

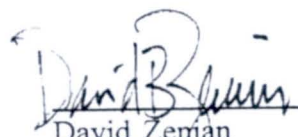
The Parish Council proposal as printed in the Supplement to the Annual Parish Assembly was read by Gen. Albert Kaehn, Jr. After discussion in support and in opposition to this proposal, it was decided that the Parish Council and the Finance Committee will join in devising a solution to the allocation of funds that are required to meet the fiscal needs of the Church.

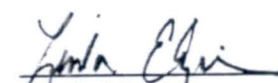
**22. Closing of the Meeting**

Der Hayr closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Rev. Vertanes Kalayjian  
Pastor

  
David Zenian  
Chairman

  
Linda Ekizian  
Secretary