

Minutes of the First Annual Parish Assembly of the
HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH
of Toronto

The first Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Cross Armenian Church was held on February 23, 1980 at 7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of Sir John A. MacDonald C. I., 2300 Pharmacy Ave. in Scarborough, Ontario. Presiding was the Vicar General of Canada, Very Rev. Vazken Keshishian. Rev. Father Housig Nishanian was present too.

In the presence of 90 members the meeting was called to order by the chairman of the Parish Council, Dr. Vartan Aynaciyan and was declared official according to article #17 of the By-Laws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese).

After the Vicar's prayer the officers of the Assembly elected by show of hands were: Mr. Garo Khabayan, Chairman; Miss Ani Chubukjian, Secretary; Mrs. Diana Hanimyan, Secretary.

Moved by M. Shahnazar, seconded by A. Kerametlian, that the agenda be adopted as written. Motion carried unanimously.

The Parish Council, the Holy Cross Armenian Day School, the Ladies Auxiliary, the 1979 Financial, and the Auditing Committee reports were read.

Mr. Bedros Mouchian accused the Parish Council of acting differently since July 14, 1979, and not adhering with their initial beliefs, and that they were not telling the whole truth about what happened in Etchmiadzin in March 1979. He said "You have given opium to people to put them to sleep".

Mrs. T. Keuchguerian answered saying that Mr. B. Mouchian was one of the delegates who had gone to Etchmiadzin and he should very well have known about the decisions taken there.

Dr. V. Aynaciyan quoted from the letter of April 2/79 #259 of the Supreme Patriarchal Council "It is the wish and the decision of his Holiness Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, that the second parish in Toronto be recognized by the Armenian Diocesan authorities in New York right away..."

Mr. Armen Kurkjian asked Mr. B. Mouchian to apologize for his accusations of the Parish Council and the Assembly.

Mr. B. Mouchian wanted to put this matter in the agenda.

Very Rev. V. Keshishian interrupted saying that the order of the agenda has already been approved.

The reports of the Parish Council, of the Auxiliary Bodies, and the 1980 projected budget were approved unanimously.

The Chairman of the Assembly then asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Hovagim Oltaciyan, to present the Nominating Committee report and conduct the nominations with the Auditing Committee.

according to Article #14 Section B of the By-Laws. The Chairman of the Nominating Committee declared that for the Parish Council the first five members having the highest number of votes would be elected for two (2) years, and the following four for one year only.

The number of dues paying members at this point was 220.

The following were called as tellers:

Dr. Manuel Sakarya
Mrs. T. Keuchguerian
Mrs. Madlen Oltaciyian
Miss Hasmig Aynaciyian
Mr. Garo Avakian
Mr. Vazken Kerametlian
Miss Ani Kerametlian
Mr. Hagop Pandes
Mrs. Silva Kurkjian
Mrs. Yerchnik Chomlekciyan

The votes were cast in person and by secret ballot.

Intermission for 30 minutes.

New Business:

1.- To be able to present modifications of some articles of the By-Laws to the Diocesan Assembly, Mr. Armen Kurkjian, on behalf of the Parish Council presented these articles with their modified forms to the Parish Assembly. (Article 14, Section L).

Article #13.- Annual or Special Parish Assemblies shall be called by the Parish Priest, or by the Chairman of the Parish Council, or by the officers of the Annual Assembly as the case may be after consultation with the Parish Council.

Article # 14, Section A.- To elect officers of the Annual Parish Assembly from a slate to be determined by the Parish Assembly. These shall hold office until the following Annual Assembly when their successors shall be elected.

Article #15.- Special Parish Assemblies may be held also upon the written request of at least one-third of the total membership or fifty members of the Parish, whichever is the lesser. The request should be addressed to the Parish Priest or to the Chairman of the Parish Council or to the officers of the Annual Assembly, as the case may be.

Article # 17.- The above mentioned decisions shall be made by secret ballot.

Article #18.- The Annual Parish Assembly shall elect a chairman and two secretaries by plurality of the members present and voting. Special Assemblies also shall be conducted by the officers of the Annual Parish Assembly. The officers of the Parish Assembly cannot be a member of or a candidate for the Parish Council.

The modifications were approved unanimously.

2.- Mr. Jirayr Hanimyan moved that the Holy Cross Armenian Church Parish Assembly should adopt a statement that they were in favour of the establishment of a separate diocese in Canada.

The Vicar, Very Rev. V. Keshishian said that he was talking to the Primate, His Grace, Arch. T. Manogian, on the phone the night before and that the Primate said that he had just sent a letter with regards to the separation of the Canadian Diocese to His Holiness Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians.

Mr. J. Hanimyan's motion was seconded by Mr. G. Avakian and carried unanimously that such a statement was absolutely necessary.

3.- Mr. Berj Kirmizian moved that buying of some land or buying a property for church building purposes be considered. The motion was seconded by Mr. L. Comlekciyan.

Mr. A. Kurkjian said that the Parish Assembly should give full power to the Parish Council to start its legal formalities of looking for the possibilities of such an endeavour.

Moved by Mr. J. Torikian and seconded by Dr. N. Ceylanli that the Parish Assembly give authority to the Parish Council in this matter. Motion carried unanimsly.

4.- Mr. D. Varjabedian wanted to know why the members of the Folk Dance Group who were working with the Gomidas Musical Assoc. later decided to join the Massis Cultural Committee of the Holy Cross Arm. Church. He questioned whether the motion of inviting the Folk Dance Group to join the Massis Cultural Committee has passed from the Parish Council meeting.

Dr. V. Ayanciyan clarified saying that such a motion has passed during the January 21, 1980 meeting.

After lengthy discussions Miss Nadin Vosganian said that the Dance Group did not want to join any organization and wanted to be independent and that the proceeds of their first performance would go to the Holy Cross Armenian Day School.

The Chairman of the Assembly, Mr. Garo Khabayan, asked the Vicar to give his closing remarks before the votes were all counted.

The Vicar, Very Rev. V. Keshishian announced that the Primate, Arch. T. Manogian had just appointed Father Housig Nishanian as Priest of the Holy Cross Armenian Church of Toronto.

The counting of the votes were ended at 1:45 a.m. The candidates declared elected were:

Parish Council: (First nine elected)

- 1.- Dr. Vartan Aynaciyan..... 196 votes
- 2.- Dr. Vahe Sivaciyan..... 188 "
- 3.- Mr. Antranik Zakarian..... 183 "
- 4.- Mr. Armen Kurkjian..... 173 "
- 5.- Dr. Vatche Kerametlian..... 164 "

Parish Council: (cont.)

- 6.- Mr. Levon Comlekciyan..... 160 votes
- 7.- Mr. John Fenerjian..... 153 "
- 8.- Mr. Ghevont Shahmelikian..... 149 "
- 9.- Mrs. Shake Shahnazar..... 138 "

- 10.- Mr. Garbis Toumayan.....97 votes
- 11.- Mr. Onnik Torossian..... 79 "
- 12.- Mr. David Varjabedian..... 54 "
- 13.- Mr. Hovsep Cangul..... 47 "

Diocesan Delegates: (First four elected)

- 1.- Dr. Vartan Aynaciyan..... 189 votes
- 2.- Mr. Souren Evran..... 173 "
- 3.- Mr. Garo Khabayan..... 140 "
- 4.- Mr. Jirayr Hanimyan..... 127 "

- 5.- Dr. Vahe Sivaciyan.....104 votes
- 6.- Mr. Bedros Mouchian..... 71 "
- 7.- Mr. David Varjabedian..... 38 "

Nominating Committee: (First five elected)

- 1.- Mr. Magar Kuzuyan..... 179 votes
- 2.- Mr. Hovagim Oltaciyan..... 170 "
- 3.- Miss Zepur Azaryan..... 170 "
- 4.- Mr. Vahe Bedrossian..... 163 "
- 5.- Mr. Moushegh Shahnazar..... 153 "

- 6.- Mr. Vahram Cicekci.....63 votes
- 7.- Mr. Hrant Hancherian.....45 "

Auditing Committee: (First three elected)

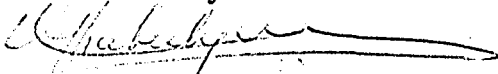
- 1.- Dr. Norayr Ceylanli.....179 votes
- 2.- Mr. Vahe Kerametlian.....154 "
- 3.- Mr. Harutuin Sahakian.....144 "

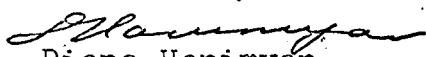
- 4.- Mr. Hagop Nar.....75 votes
- 5.- Mr. Vahan Mooradian.....57 "

Those who have received the next highest number of votes in the same election would be alternates in the order of their plurality.

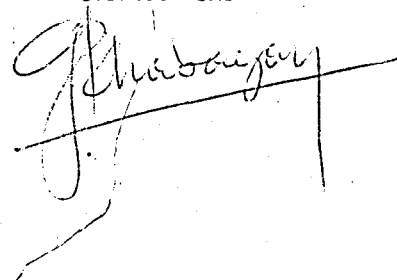
The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 a.m. by the Vicar's prayer.

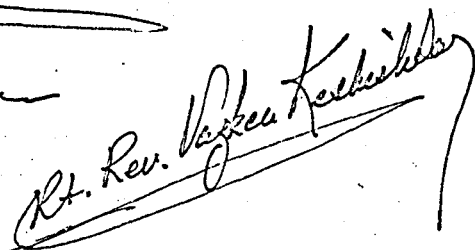
Ani Chubukjian
Secretary




Diana Hanimyan
Secretary

Garo Khabayan
Chairman




Rt. Rev. Vazken Kechikyan