

The Minutes of the 1981 Annual Parish Assembly of the
HOLY CROSS ARMENIAN CHURCH
of Toronto

The Annual Parish Assembly of the Holy Cross Armenian Church was held on February 14, 1981 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of David and Mary Thomson C.I., 2740 Lawrence Ave. E. in Scarborough, Ontario. Presiding was the pastor of the church Father Housig Nishanian.

In the presence of 96 members the meeting was called to order by the chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. Armen Kurkjian and was declared official according to article #17 of the By-Laws of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese).

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

Moved by Mr. Moushegh Shahnazar and seconded by Dr. Vahe Sivacyan that the agenda be adopted as written. Motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the 1980 Annual Assembly were read by Mrs. Diana Hanimyan and were accepted as written.

Father H. Nishanian read the Pastor's report which was accepted unanimously.

The Parish Council report was read by Mr. A. Kurkjian.

Mr. A. Kurkjian added that since Nov. 15, 1980, Vazken I, Catholicos of all Armenians has sent a telegram to the Primate of the Eastern Diocese of America, Very Rt. Rev. Archbishop T. Manoogian, followed by His Encyclical that He declares Canada as a Separate Diocese and that the Primate should start taking the necessary steps for the implementation of the new Diocese.

The Primate has just called the delegates of all the Canadian Parishes to a special meeting on Feb. 21, 1981 for this purpose.

Dr. N. Alyanak noticed a contradiction between His Holiness' recent encyclical, where the Vehapar had put the Primate in charge of the procedures of formation of the Separate Canadian Diocese, and His wish to separate the Canadian Diocese in the shortest time possible.

Mr. G. Khabayan, chairman of the assembly, read the words "without delay" and "immediately" from the encyclical.

Father H. Nishanian pointed out that there were still a great number of steps ahead before the final separation took place.

Mrs. T. Keucguerian agreed with Dr. Alyanak by saying that while she was at Holy Etchmiadzin in October 1980 and has had a personal meeting with His Holiness Vazken I, His Holiness had said that all the work that had to be done for the separation of the Canadian Diocese had to be finished before the end of 1981, although Arch. T. Manoogian had suggested that the process of separation could not be finalized before the end of 1982.

Mr. A. Kurkjian also added that the letter received from Revenue Canada has been sent to the Diocesan Authorities and to all the Armenian Churches in Canada for the purpose of information.

Mr. H. Hancherian wanted to know why the Holy Cross's status be jeopardized if taxes were sent to New York.

The Chairman of the Assembly read the letter received from the Government (letter attached).

Mr. O. Kuyumcu said that money could be sent to the Diocesan Authorities in return of a service that they perform.

Mr. J. Hanimyan answered that if the Diocesan Authorities would change the word "taxes" to "service" then we would send our dues.

Mr. A. Kurkjian mentioned an article that appeared in 'Abaka' without a signature where the reality has been altered and where it said that the Holy Cross has not been registered as a "church". This was not true, the Holy Cross was a church and was also registered as a charitable organization to be able to give tax deductible receipts, the way the Holy Trinity Church of Toronto was and showed and read two income tax deductible receipts from both of the churches. He added that this was intentionally printed to disrupt the harmony of working towards the separation of the Diocese.

Dr. N. Alyanak read the Holy Cross Armenian Day School report.

Mrs. N. Keleshian read the Ladies Auxiliary report.

Mr. K. Kazangian read the Church Choir report.

Mr. K. Istanbulian read the ACYOA report.

The above reports were approved unanimously with great appreciation.

Mr. O. Kuyumcu suggested not to read the Financial Reports but only questions be asked. He also suggested that Balance Sheets should be attached to all the Financial Reports.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr. A. Kurkjian, answered saying that not only balance sheets will be prepared next year but there is already a list available of all the articles that belong to the church and the subordinate bodies.

Mrs. S. Bedrossian commented that in the Holy Cross Armenian Day School Financial Statement although there is a May Dance expense shown, there is no entry for the same function in the revenues' column.

Mr. M. Demirci, the school treasurer, answered that at the time of preparation of the report the May Dance account was not closed. But this entry will definitely appear in the next year's report. (The School Financial Statement is from July 1 1970 to June 30, 1980).

Mr. O. Kuyumcu suggested that next year the term July 1 to Dec. 31 be added to the financial reports.

Dr. N. Ceylanli read the Auditing Committee Report.

The Financial Reports, the Auditing Committee Report and the 1981 Projected Budget were approved unanimously.

Dr. N. Ceylanli gave the Church Building Committee Report.

After the discussion of various possibilities it was moved by Mr. O. Kuyumcu that it would be more advantageous to form a church building committee which will include some members of the Parish Council and that this committee should look for a church site or a building to buy rather than to rent. The motion was seconded.

Mr. B. Kirmizyan made an amendment to the above motion the already existing committee members continue their job. The amendment was accepted unanimously.

The Chairman of the Assembly then asked the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Moushegh Sahnazar, to present the Nominating Committee report and conduct the elections with the Auditing Committee, according to Article #14, Sec. B of the By-Laws.

The number of dues paying members at this point was 134.

The following were called as tellers:

- Mrs. M. Aynaciyán
- Mrs. Y. Comlekciyan
- Mr. A. Kombiyikyan
- Dr. M. Sakarya
- Mr. J. Torikian
- Mr. G. Toumayan

The votes were cast in person and by secret ballot.

Intermission for 30 minutes.

New Business:

A committee was formed to increase the church membership the voluntary members of which were:

- Mr. Magar Kuzuyan
- Mr. Vazken Kerametlian
- Mr. Berj Kirmizyan

The results of the elections were:

Parish Council: (first four declared elected)

- 1.- Comlekciyan, Levon.....121 votes
- 2.- Shahmelikian, Ghevont.....117 "
- 3.- Sahnazar, Shake.....114 "
- 4.- Hacetyan, Minas.....112 "
- 5.- Hancherian, Hrant.....25 votes

Nominating Committee: (first five declared elected)

- 1.- Istanbul, Yeprem.....116 votes
- 2.- Kocademirci, Roupen.....111 "
- 3.- Kerametlian, Vazken.....109 "
- 4.- Bagdatliyan, Aznif (Mrs.).....104 "
- 5.- Baravyan, Garabet..... 88 "
- 6.- Kirmizyan, Berc.....72 votes

Auditing Committee:

Mr. Mardik Bulguryemez resigned on the spot for personal reasons, therefore the following became auditing committee members by acclamation:

- 1.- Ceylanli, Dr. Norayr
- 2.- Oltaciyani, Mrs. Madlen
- 3.- Sahakian, Mr. Harutuini

Those who have received the next highest number of votes in the same election would be alternates in the order of their plurality. (Art. #14 C).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 a.m. by the Pastor's prayer.

Ani Kerametlian
Ani Kerametlian
Secretary

Diana Hanimyan
Diana Hanimyan
Secretary

Garob Khabayan
Chairman

G. Khabayan

Houssig Nishanian

Rev. Father Houssig Nishanian
President