

Below are minutes for meeting @ St. Garabed Armenian Church, Kansas City MO
2013-09-08

(Meeting was conducted in English, translated in Russian by George Stepanian)

Meeting began at 12:30pm.

Der Tateos (DT) leads with a short prayer. Srpazan Khajag Barsamian asked DT to come to discuss consecration. DT used the analogy of a home...if there is need for repair you repair it. During the consecration, 16 crosses, anointed with muron, are to be placed along the walls of the interior sanctum. People have to assume responsibilities as outlined in letter. First responsibility is that 16 godfathers are needed to shoulder financial needs. A parish council of 5 people needs to be elected. A consecration committee needs to be appointed to handle the preparation & planning for the consecration weekend. A choir of 5-7 mbmrs need to be developed to actively participate in badarak. Other things as well.

DT is here on behalf of Khajag to present this to you

Samvel Topchian - thinks we are not ready. It is the desire, but in 1 year we are not ready. realistically 1 and 3 years. We need contact with other Hye communities in USA. ST himself ready to do physical

Njdeh Assisian - There are 140 Armenian families in KC but only small % participation. We need more participation. Geog. & language problems complicate matters. Njdeh proposes Khajag send someone for 1 month to go from 1 home to another and discuss with each family importance of attending church & sunday school. Bakutzi is majority, but participation in that group is particularly low.

Bakutzi Gentleman & Samvel T. - Bakutzis in KC work long & hard to make ends meet. When needed and asked by church they do labor/repairs.

Der Tateos - expresses admiration of Bakutzi. They are the heroes of Armenia today. He had the honor to assoc. with them in Hartford, Jacksonville, Nashville, and KC. They are heroic to remain Arm. in a Turkic country. Just because people don't speak armenian does not mean they are not Armenians. Baku = 100% arm. yerevan = 100% , usa = 100% arm. they are part of church *through baptism*. We are 1 family in KC. & throughout the world. The church is the faithful people who gather in God's name. It is a personal choice to be in the church. Nobody can use the excuse that they are not welcomed.

Lygie Branning - spoke about history of Bakutzi's in KC. 5 families at first. They met in

other churches. They wrote a letter to NY...requested help. If we don't get help now we will lose them to other churches. Letter was signed by several people. Never got answer from NY. Still Bob & Lygie worked hard...eventually grew to 75 - 100 / people. Not rich people, just few longtimers, then the Bakutzis came with nothing. 16 benefactors? We dont have them. We just had one (Zaven Hatutian) who bought church. Why buy church when we cant support? Decision was exclusive...just NY and zaven. For repairs/fixes we said to hire local Armenian laborers, please? Request was Ignored. Name of church was not decided by people. Hired laborers were from outside. So attendance plummeted. 20 years. no benefactors. who will train choir?

DT - if you get 5 folks interested, diocese can provide training. 20 years ago diocese was not prepared for the Bakutzi immigration. We need to create sunday school. We sent books to gary. Diocese can help, but solutions have to come from KC

Lygie Branning - noted the orig. families are not represented in today's attendance. I expect church to give some. But they only take. Is consecration necessary? More than people understanding the liturgy? Where is the mission outreach?

Deacon Vrej Minassian - sounds like there is communication problem. email phone not enough. went to ethnic fest...was disappointed that Armenia was not represented. we need to get everyone back together. Deacon Vrej noted that it was blessing to serve at the altar today.

Anita Zakarian - Past few years America had recession . People suffered financially & psychologically. they are wondering "where is god?" There needs to be love and community. Without that, consecration is meaningless. Need community. Church women need to unite. Maybe in 2-3 years. Then consecration.
DT - 16 benefactor

Elder Bakutzi gentleman - totally agrees but not many participate. we all have arm. relatives. just call them.

Tatev Amiryan- bring more children to learn language. will be something to connect them to church. I am so eager to teach them

Dr. Bill Rinck - observation & question. attended conference in LA years ago. visited buddhist temple. 200 people, but held together by 5 or 6. we need to build on what we have already. we bring grandkids to language classes & talk in basement. That is a good nucleus for developing something. curious if there are other communities in the USA who succeeded?

Der Tateos - used example of Jacksonville. 80% recent/baku 20% longtimers/native. 2 yrs ago they purchased a 2 story office bldg. 1st floor social hall. 2nd floor church. Still

being renovated. They are not wealthy but understand importance. They have monthly badarak. In particular, success is partly due to their "attitude of celebration". Each month birthdays are celebrated. Bible study sat night - 20 - 25 ppl.

Armen Hovsepian- special thanks to Vrej to serving this morning. Armen felt that today is a turning point of church. History - 15 yrs went well. last 5 yrs downhill. No dues mbrshp. No women's guild. no choir. Even in its best years, 16 godfathers was unrealistic. Lets start over from scratch. 4-5 years consec. Q - will we vote today?

group consensus - general opinion has been expressed to Srpazan. no need to vote today.

Samvel & Njdeh - Priest's "uniform" gives authority. Needs to do door-to-door. A clergy member (der hayr, sargavak) is more effective than layperson like him doing outreach. need 1-3 years before consecration.

Der Tateos - thanks KC community for meeting with him. He will prepare thoughts to submit to Srpazan. He is willing to come early fri/sat...meet with choir.

Njdeh - wanted to re-emphasize uniform/authority concept. Suggest DH meet with families...do house blessings, etc...