

## **The St. John Armenian Church Parish Council**

*Contributors: Ardis Gregory and Linda Jevahirian*

From its beginnings, the Parish Council has worked alongside spiritual leaders to govern church operations, overseeing everything from facilities management and finances to youth programs and stewardship. The council is composed of parishioners representing a wide range of backgrounds, including teachers, homemakers, business owners, accountants, students, and retirees.

Being on the Parish Council requires sacrifice, but most of all a deep love and dedication to St. John Armenian Church (SJAC). Eleven stewards are elected annually at the Parish Assembly. Each elected member serves a two-year term, with a maximum of three consecutive terms equaling six years. In addition to their assigned duties, they meet bi-monthly and are present on Sundays to assist parishioners both inside and outside the sanctuary, and to answer any questions they may have.

The current officers of the Parish Council are:

- Peter Egigian, Chairman
- Marilyn Boladian, Vice Chairwoman
- Roseann Manoogian Attar, Treasurer
- Correne Akarakcian, Assistant Treasurer
- Deacon George Boyagian, Secretary
- Anna Tokmajyan, Assistant Secretary, and Advisors Lisa Boyadjian, Michael Toomajian, George Derderian, Jr., Gary Gozmanian, and Paul Yousoufian.
- Deacon Ohannes Boyajian is the First Alternate

## **Key Responsibilities**

The Parish Council's duties cover a wide range of operational and financial oversight including business functions such as policy development, property maintenance and human resource matters. This ensures that the church and its facilities remain safe and functional for church activities. They also manage the church assets and financial matters, ensuring compliance with legal and organizational regulations.

## **Stewardship and Giving**

Promoting stewardship and regular giving is of central concern to the Parish Council. SJAC became a part of the Diocesan Stewardship Pilot Program in 2020, replacing the membership program that was based on a set fee. Parishioners pledge their stewardship annually in an amount that comes from their heart. This is an area that the council would like to see grow exponentially to ensure the financial stability of the church.

Working closely with the pastor and other church leaders, the council promotes regular giving, fundraising, and community outreach efforts. These initiatives support the church's ministries and projects, such as World Medical Relief and Motor City Mittens, and help increase overall stewardship and participation.

## **Town Hall Meetings**

The Parish Council periodically hosts Town Hall meetings to foster open communication with Stewards and provide transparent updates on religious, operational and financial matters. At a Town Hall meeting on August 5, 2025, they presented some of their current and ongoing concerns, including maintenance and the associated costs, renovation of the Armenian American Veterans (Vets) Building and catering operations.

The renovation of the Vets Building is a vital project. At its heart and soul is a place where the SJAC Armenian community took root and has continued to prosper for many decades. Fundraising for this project is ongoing, and parishioners are encouraged to give generously.

The church relies on the catering business to offset its expenses. A beautifully renovated ballroom and meeting rooms are available to parishioners and the surrounding community for banquets, meetings and parties. The Parish Council, in tandem with the catering director and staff are working hard to increase profits in this area.

One of the critical points made at the Town Hall Meeting was the overall financial health of the church. The church is experiencing rising costs and looks to its parishioners to cover those costs and then some. Giving generously will make sure the church can cover its expenses and ensure its future viability.

The Parish Council is a vital part of SJAC. They are entrusted with the responsibility, passed down through generations, of providing a safe environment for worship, ensuring communication among all stewards, and supporting the mission and ministry of the church.

All Stewards are encouraged to bring their talents to SJAC. For further information about how to get involved with any of the auxiliary groups, please feel free to ask a Parish Council member or check the [church website](#) for contact information.

To make electronic donations to the church please [click here](#).