

**THE 99TH ANNUAL
DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**

ST. PAUL ARMENIAN CHURCH

3767 N First St, Fresno, CA 93726

May 1, 2026



WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE

**Armenian
Church**

CONTENT

Agenda	-----	2
98th Diocesan Assembly Minutes	-----	3
Primate's Message	-----	16
Executive Director's Report	-----	20
Program Director's Report	-----	22
Institutional Innovation	-----	24
Education & Leadership Mission	-----	28
Epostle Impact Report	-----	35
Stewardship Committee Report	-----	36
St. Nersess Seminary Report	-----	38
Mer Hooy's	-----	40
Abp. Hovnan Derderian Scholarship	-----	43
WD Saturday Schools	-----	44
Etchmiadzin Children's Fund	-----	46
Christian Education Council Report	-----	47
Hye Camp Board Report	-----	48
Hye Camp Committee Report	-----	49
ACYO Central Council	-----	50
Retreat Committee	-----	51
Zvartnots Cultural Committee	-----	52
Ladies Guild of the WD	-----	53
Hampartzum Committee Report	-----	54
Financial Report	-----	55
WD Endowment Fund Report	-----	63
Diocesan Staff	-----	68
WD Committees	-----	70

**99TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA
FRIDAY MAY 1, 2026**

Registration opens at 8:30 am

1. 9:00 am – Call to Order
 - a. Opening Prayer
 - b. Quorum
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Approval of 98th Annual Assembly Minutes
 - e. Welcoming Remarks
 - i. Vehapar’s Message
 - ii. Spiritual Message
2. 9:30 am – Appointment of Committees (Parliamentary, Balloting, Nomination)
3. 9:45 am – Presentation & Panel Discussion
 - a. Presentation: Stewarding Our Blessings (Harout Markarian)
 - b. Panel Discussion: From Dependency to Sustainability
4. 10:45 am – Break
5. 11:00 am – Workshop
6. 12:15 pm – Group Photo
7. 12:30 pm – Lunch
8. 1:30 pm – Nominating Committee Report & Elections
 - a. Review of Ballot and Nominations
 - b. Elections
9. 2:00 pm – Primate’s Report
10. 2:25 pm – DC Report (Derik Ghookasian)
11. 2:40 pm – New Business
 - a. The Path Forward (Dr. Varoujan Altebarmakian)
 - b. 2027 Budget Approval
12. 3:40 pm – Announcement of Future Diocesan Assembly Site
 - a. Results of Elections
 - b. Closing Remarks and Prayer
13. 4:00 pm – Adjournment

**Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America
98TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA**

FRIDAY MAY 2, 2025

**St. Garabed Armenian Apostolic Church of the Desert
Registration opens at 8:30 am**

Call to Order

Assembly Chairman Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian called the meeting to order at 9:23 am.

Opening Prayer

by His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Fr. Vazken Movsesian.

Quorum

A quorum of delegates was verified: 93 of 126 delegates were present.

Adoption of Agenda

Derik Ghookasian of St. Peter – Van Nuys moved and Houry Sonia Matossian of St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage seconded a motion to approve the agenda, as presented.

Discussion: Assembly Chair Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian made change to have Elections immediately following the Panel Discussion. No other discussion.

The motion passed without objection with change of Election on the agenda – ADOPTED.

Approval of 97th Annual Assembly Minutes

Shant Der Gazarian of St. Gregory – Pasadena moved and Mike Missakian of Diocesan Council and St. Gregory – Fowler seconded a motion to approve the 97th Annual Assembly minutes, as presented.

No discussion.

The motion passed without objection – APPROVED

Welcoming Remarks

Assembly Chair – Dn. Barlow Der Mugerdechian

In his opening remarks Dn. Barlow highlighted: 100th year milestone of the Western Diocese with thoughts of reflection and looking forward to planning for the future of our Diocese, look at and address the changes in our Diocese and work collectively, and take the opportunities to work together.

Vehapar's Message – read by Rev. Fr. Asoghig Karapetian

representative from Holy Etchmiadzin (in Armenian), the written English translation was distributed to the Assembly. Rev. Fr. Antrias Yeskian, representative from Holy Etchmiadzin, was recognized in attendance.

Spiritual Message – delivered by Fr. Vasken Movsesian (English)

In his message Fr. Vasken highlighted the message of resurrection and that the Armenian Church is the “resurrected church” and that we the Armenians are the “resurrected”.

Archbishop Derderian acknowledged Fr. Vasken as the “Priest of the Year” and presented Fr. Vasken with a cross

Introduction of Assembly Officers:

Assembly Chair Dn. Barlow Der Mugerdechian: Dn. Steve Adam – Assembly Vice Chair and Pamela Abaci – Assembly Secretary, with acknowledgements of the help and efforts of Harout Markarian – Diocesan Executive Director and Diocesan staff in preparing for the Diocesan Assembly.

Assembly Conduct from Assembly Chair Dn. Barlow Der Mugerdechian

All Assembly business and discussion should be address to the Assembly Chair. Do not address each other. To address the Assembly Chair, raise hand, clearly state your name, parish you represent and the business you wish to address. Everyone who wishes to speak will have the ability to speak.

Appointment of Committees

Parliamentary: Judge Adrienne Krikorian

Balloting Committee: Darlene Chardukian of St. Paul – Fresno, Mike Hollis of St. Mary – Costa Mesa, Artin Kenajian of St. Apkar – Arizona

Nomination Committee: Members of the Diocesan Council

Nominating Committee Report: submitted in Assembly packet

Review of Ballot and Nominations by Assembly Chair Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Candidates for the Diocesan Assembly 2026

Chairman: Steve Adams of St. Paul – Fresno

Motion to close the nominations from Fr. Sasoon Zumrookhdian of St. Geragos – Las Vegas and motion seconded by Shant Der Gazarian of St. Gregory – Pasadena.

No discussion or nominees.

The motion passed without objection.

Vice-Chairman: Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of St. Paul – Fresno

Motion to close the nominations from Mike Missakian of St. Gregory – Fowler and motion seconded by Hagop Nalbandian of St. Leon Cathedral.

Discussion: Parliamentarian Adrienne Krikorian stated that at least one vote must cast for each nominee even with one candidate/nominee is on the slate.

The motion passed without objection.

Secretary: Fr. Sarkis Petoyan of St. Gregory – Pasadena

Motion to close the nominations from Mike Missakian of St. Gregory – Fowler and motion seconded by Shant Der Gazarian of St. Gregory – Pasadena.

No discussion or nominees.
The motion passed without objection.

Candidates for the Diocesan Council

Clergy: (3 open positions)

1. Very Rev. Fr. Yeremia Abgaryan (Western Diocese), Incumbent
2. Fr. Manoug Markarian (Armenian Apostolic Church of Glendale), Incumbent
3. Fr. Shnork Demirjian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)

Motion to close the nominations from Fr. Sasoon Zumrookhdian of St. Geragos – Las Vegas and motion seconded by Mike Missakian of St. Gregory – Fowler.

No discussion or nominees.
The motion passed without objection.

Laypersons: (5 open positions) introduced and asked to stand

1. Dr. Varoujan Altebarmakian (St. Paul – Fresno/Central CA), Incumbent
2. Yuriy Akopyan (Holy Resurrection – Seattle/Northwest)
3. Aida Askejian (St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage)
4. Kim Bardakian Demirjian (St. Vartan – Oakland/Northern CA)
5. Partick Goshtigian (St. James – Los Angeles)
6. Barkev Hamalian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)
7. Vera Kabaklian (St. Mary – Costa Mesa)
8. Renee Missakian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)

Motion to close the nominations from Derik Ghookasian of St. Peter – Van Nuys and motion seconded by Barkev Hamalian of St. Peter – Van Nuys.

No discussion or no more nominees.
The motion passed without objection.

Auditing: (1 open position)

1. Abraham Dervishian (Armenian Apostolic Church of Glendale)

Motion to close the nominations from Mike Missakian of St. Gregory - Fowler and motion seconded by Shant Der Gazarian of St. Gregory – Pasadena.

Discussion: about increasing the number of people on the Auditing Committee. This would be a Bylaw amendment/change that would have to be taken up by the Diocesan Council and brought to the next Assembly for vote and further approved by Vehapar. It was noted that an outside accounting company audits the Diocese and it is not solely on this one individual.

The motion passed without objection.

Endowment Fund Board (Ratification)

1. Yurily Akopyan
2. Zaven Akian
3. Razmig Der Tavitian
4. Joseph Kanimian
5. Art Knadjian

National Ecclesiastical Representatives Nominations: 4 delegates and 4 alternates

Representative will travel to Armenia on their own finances in the Spring or Fall of 2026 (with 6 months prior notice), with language requirement - Russian, English or Armenian. Representative will hear and give input on constitutional and any other issue changes to our church life, as well as submit issues with 3 months advance notice. There are currently no directives to address.

1. Dn Dr. Hagop Nalbanian (St. Leon – Burbank)
2. Fr. Sasoon Zumrookhdian (St. Geragos – Las Vegas)
3. Adrienne Krikorian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)
4. Vartan Nazerian (St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage)
5. Deirk Ghoogasian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)

6. Asbed Tatoulian (St. Gregory – Pasadena)
7. Silva Katchigian (St. Gregory – Pasadena)
8. Levon Keleshian (St. Mary – Costa Mesa)
9. Patick Goshtigian (St. James – Los Angeles)
10. Ara Babayan (St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage)

Motion to close the nominations from Shant Der Gazarian of St. Gregory – Pasadena and motion seconded by Garbis Hindoyan of St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage.

No discussion or no more nominees.

The motion passed without objection.

Panel Discussion: Dn. Hratch Tchilingirian, moderator

Topic: How can we make our Christian Faith and rich Heritage a living experience?

The second and follow-up to last year's Assembly panel discussion.

Panelist: Diran Avagyan – Diocese Program Director; Eric Niksarrian – Parish Council Chair at St. James, Los Angeles; Kim Bardakian Demirjian – St. Vartan, Oakland

How can we live our Christian faith and culture on a daily basis?

Discussion of practical actions:

- Bible studies, religious book clubs, gatherings of sports events or conduct events of interest of parishes.
- Attending Armenian Church Camp (for 8-12 years olds), form a foundation with the youth.
- College students (get engage in Armenian parish in the college area).
- Young married couples (engage them into the church, to also get their children into Sunday School).
- Build relationship and be present in church, be welcoming in church, follow-up with connections and keep people included.

- Have parish leadership engage with the different groups in the parish, ie. youth, church organizations. Review in depth the spiritual needs and incorporate them into the groups.
- Outreach to colleges students with care-box or notice of church schedule or pray chats (before finals).
- Being good stewards of the church both spiritually and financially. There needs to be practical.
- Have a strong social element to getting people to come together, ie. prepping for festivals, dinners, etc.
- Engage with the people in your church by asking with are their needs to create programs to nurture them.

Primate’s Report: Archbishop Hovnan Derderian – submitted in Assembly packet

5 key thoughts (to take back to each parish, assemble a special meeting for PC and organizations, set a date within 1 week, plus share with member of community, notify the Archbishop about the date of the “meeting” for his possible attendance):

1. Our Diocese is in motion, rooted in faith, reaching for renewal – families have all three of these. Church is not just a place we visit – it is a way of life.
2. Be ready for a new Christian life – faith in action = take it to the parish level. Revisit and put at the top of the list, taking action to promote our faith in the parish, beyond the church practical functioning. Visit fellow/local parishes.
3. Clergy and laypeople are partners in Christ. Embrace one another. Be more loving and compassionate in our parishes. Have a shared commitment.
4. We must strengthen the heart of the Diocese, which is the Parish. Visit regionally and other parishes in the Diocese, not only on Sunday for service but for townhall meetings, to have precious encounters, and hear other the voices.

5. Prepare the church for tomorrow – having different assemblies with specific focuses. Each year needs to be a new beginning.

Prepare and plan for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Diocese, with each parish celebrating the 100th anniversary in their own distinct way.

Gratitude:

- Vehapar Karekin II for his blessing and the presences of Holy Etchmiadzin priests attending the assembly today
- Diocesan clergy for their service
- Diocesan Council Chair Vartan Nazerian and DC members' dedication
- Assembly Delegates for attending
- Dn. Barlow Der MugMugrdechian as Assembly Chair for conducting an efficient Assembly meeting, along with Steve Adams as Assembly Vice Chair and Pamela Abaci as Secretary
- Fr. Gevork Gevorkian and Rancho Mirage parish give special thanks for hosting the Assembly
- Thanks to Diocesan staff members – Dn. Harout Markarian & Fr. Manoug Markarian, and all the staff
- Today's Panel: Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian (leading mission) and panelists. We learned so much.
- Yesterday's Panel: Fr. Avedis Abovian and Fr. Vazgen Boyajyan
- This afternoon's Panel: Arra Yerganian

Final thought to share – “A question asked of me often: Have you regretted becoming a priest? Never, not even for a second.”

Election:

Ballots were compiled following nominations and passed out to delegates. Instruction on voting for each of the positions were explained by Assembly Chair Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian. Delegates were called individually by Assembly Secretary Pamela Abaci and ballots collected by Balloting Committee members from the delegates. Balloting Committee will report the results in the afternoon session.

DC Report: Vartan Nazerian – submitted in Assembly packet

- Thankful for the Diocesan Council members, a very committed and united council
- Thankful for the miracle of his health
- Happy for the resolution of St. John Church in Hollywood and the lawsuits conclusion
- Thank St. Garabed for hosting and the parish's hospitality

Executive Director Report: Harout Markarian – submitted in Assembly packet

- Thankful for Diocesan Council's guiding force though out the year
- Thankful for the Archbishop's guidance
- Diocese has 25 operating parishes in the Diocese (22 Diocesan-owned churches, \$120 M property ownership)
- 26 Diocese staff payroll
- \$12-15 Million revenue
- How the Diocese budget is run:
 - Efficiency – started with budget cuts during COVID
 - Stewardship – responsibly, thoughtful decisions to align with mission statement
 - Revenue – Endowment Fund = Revenue sharing
- Cost assessment – making assessment, reviews and modifications
- Partnership – with parish to create projects to help each parish and the Diocese (ie. parishes that generated profit to help with costs, like Las Vegas, Tujunga, Del Mar and Arizona with daycare, etc.)
- Varnum Paul (St. John, SF, from Fresno) – backbone of the Endowment Fund (video) funding to have spiritually guided programs
- Salary & Benefits = \$1.1 million

Group Photo

Lunch

New Business

2026 Budget Approval

Barkev Hamalian of St. Peter – Van Nuys moved to approve the 2026 Budget and Mike Missakian of St. Gregory – Fowler seconded the motion.

No discussion.

The motion passed without objection.

Committee Report

Armenian Church Summer Camp – Andrew Hagopian, Chair

- Armenian Camp is the frontline with interactions with the youth of the Diocese - 450 children attend camp.
- 60th year of camp program
- Encourage youth to attend Armenian Camp to strength bond with their faith and culture

Stewardship – Pilgrimage to St. Nerses to support a newly graduating priest from our Diocese

Mer Hoos – Adrienne Krikorian, Director, submitted in Assembly packet

- Thankful to donors and donor parishes to help meet the \$250,000 to run the program yearly
- In July, 2 girls are coming to CA. July 31, one of the girls will be having a piano recital at St. Gregory, Pasadena.
- Come visit, let Adrienne know

Panel Discussion: Arra Yerganian - moderator

Topic: Faith Beyond Sundays – Leveraging Social Media as a Bridge Back to the Church

Panelists: Alex Baghdjian – owner of a creative agency in Toronto and Yerevan and lives in New York, Anthony Abaci – founder of MIASEEN and creator of *The Armenian Dating Show*, and Fr. Mesrop Ash – St. John, San Francisco.

Discussions:

- There is a robust Christian community online. Our Armenian church needs to be part of that online conversation otherwise others will have that conversation for us to our people.
- What are people looking for online.
- You never know who you are reaching with your online presence.
- Messages from other sources are reaching our people (especially young people) that are different from the teachings of the Armenian Church and this causes questions.
- Having authenticity in the content posted. Tell your “story” to reach people. Do not preach but tell your “story”. Do not dilute or make up your message. Tell the truth.
- Goal of social media is the same as the goal church, it is a call for action. Come to church, attend church events. Develop disciples via social media by keeping our doors open.
- Content development – Armenians like to see other Armenians in content. Entertainment is part of social media but young people also look for similarities in faith, culture, activities.
- Empowering the youth to tell their stories of faith.
- Create your page with content what is about to happen in you parish not only about what events already happened. Encourage attendance of events and make people feel welcome/included.
- Have different content that is authentic with content not only religious related.

Future Diocesan Assembly Site

Nominations for 2026 Diocesan Assembly Site:

- St. Paul, Fresno
- St. Geragos, Las Vegas
- St. Mary, Costa Mesa

Votes were tabulated by the Balloting Committee members.

2026 Diocesan Assembly Site is St. Paul, Fresno.

Results of Elections

Diocesan Assembly 2026

Chairman: Steve Adams of St. Paul – Fresno

Vice-Chairman: Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian of St. Paul – Fresno

Secretary: Fr. Sarkis Petoyan of St. Gregory – Pasadena

Candidates for the Diocesan Council

Clergy:

- Very Rev. Fr. Yeremia Abgaryan (Western Diocese), Incumbent
- Fr. Manoug Markarian (Armenian Apostolic Church of Glendale), Incumbent
- Fr. Shnork Demirjian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)

Laypersons:

- Dr. Varoujan Altebarmakian (St. Paul – Fresno/Central CA), Incumbent
- Yuriy Akopyan (Holy Resurrection – Seattle/Northwest)
- Aida Askejian (St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage)
- Kim Bardakian Demirjian (St. Vartan – Oakland/Northern CA)
- Partick Goshtigian (St. James – Los Angeles)

Auditing:

- Abraham Dervishian (Armenian Apostolic Church of Glendale)

Endowment Fund Board (Ratification)

- Yurily Akopyan
- Zaven Akian
- Razmig Der Tavitian
- Joseph Kanimian
- Art Knadjian

National Ecclesiastical Representatives Nominations:

- Deirk Ghoogasian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)
- Fr. Sasoon Zumrookhdian (St. Geragos – Las Vegas)
- Adrienne Krikorian (St. Peter – Van Nuys)
- Vartan Nazerian (St. Garabed – Rancho Mirage)

Closing Remarks: Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

- Parish of the Year – Holy Apostle Armenian Church, Crescenta Valley, Fr. Avedis Abovian
- June 16 - 22– Constantinople Patriarch Sahag II will be visiting Southern California
- Vehapar visit – 5 days around the September 28. He will be visiting again during the 100th anniversary of the Diocese, by visiting all the parishes in the Diocese (taking 3 weeks).
- Gratitude to the afternoon Panel Discussion – we were informed about the steps that we can take to engage with social media, we learned about branding and to make all our content relevant.
- Spiritual atmosphere needs to continue.
- The Diocese Executive Director will be sending out branding message for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Diocese in each parish.

Closing Prayer: Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

Adjournment – Chairman Dn. Barlow Der Mugrdechian adjourned the meeting at 3:04PM

Respectfully submitted by

Pamela Abaci
Assembly Secretary 2025



**TOWARD THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY:
FROM VISION TO DIRECTION**

PRIMATE’S MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 99TH DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance.” — Proverbs 21:5

Reverend Clergy,
Dear Delegates,

We thank God for this wonderful opportunity to convene at St. Paul Armenian Church for our 99th Annual Diocesan Assembly. As we stand just one year away from the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Western Diocese, we find ourselves returning to Fresno—the place where it all began in 1927, the very ground of our foundation.

Next year, our centennial Diocesan Assembly will be held at the Diocesan Headquarters in Burbank, a place that now represents new beginnings and the unfolding future of our Diocese. In this sense, we are completing a full circle—standing between foundation and renewal.

This moment invites us not only to reflect with gratitude, but also to act with clarity and purpose, so that our Diocese may remain vibrant, relevant, and steadfast in its mission for generations to come.

RECALLING THE VISION OF THE 98TH ASSEMBLY

To place our reflections in context, we briefly recall the direction we set together at last year’s Assembly.

At our 98th Diocesan Assembly, we did not simply present ideas—we set before us a vision.

First, we formally introduced at the Assembly the comprehensive renewed Mission, Vision, Values statement of our Diocese, which provides us with a shared long-term roadmap, rooted in Christian faith and inspired by our Armenian heritage.

Second, we named eight fundamental principles as a call to elevate the spiritual life of our faithful, to strengthen the mission of the Church, and to renew the life of our parishes. These principles were a framework of renewal.

Today, one year later, we see that what was articulated in principle has begun to take form in practice. Over the past year, we have intentionally moved from vision to action. Through leadership seminars, continuing education, production of guidebooks, video presentations, regional meetings, and pastoral visits, we have worked to translate these principles into the daily life of our Diocese. We introduced steps for strategic planning, encouraged self-evaluation, and invited our parishes to reflect not only on what they are doing, but on why they are doing it.

Yet, these efforts were never end goals in themselves. They were means and tools to help our communities grow spiritually, live their faith more intentionally, and experience the Church not merely as a place they visit, but as a way of life rooted in Christ and inspired by our Armenian heritage.

The work we undertake is methodical, and it seeks transformation at all levels. For this reason, it is essential that we maintain a consistent message, a clear direction, and a shared vision.

THE PATH FORWARD

As we stand today on the threshold of our 100th anniversary, our path is beginning to take clearer shape—and it calls for deliberate, measurable, and faithful action.

This path is guided by three essential pillars that summarize the *Mission, Vision, Values* statement of our Diocese: *Faith, Fellowship, and Heritage*.

These are not simply areas of activity; they are the living expression of our mission:

- *Faith*, through which our people grow in their relationship with God and live the Gospel in everyday life.
- *Fellowship*, through which we build a caring, supportive community where each person finds belonging and purpose.
- *Heritage*, through which we preserve and live the spiritual and cultural legacy entrusted to us.

Within this framework, we have identified clear areas of focus for the next three years: *Evangelism, Community building*, and the development of the *Innovation and Media Center*.

Together, these pillars and focus areas give direction to everything we do. They allow us to evaluate our programs not by intention, but by impact—not by activity, but by transformation.

This message has been consistently shared across all levels of diocesan life.

At the clergy meeting preceding the 99th Assembly, we shall reaffirm and focus on the importance of evangelization as a central mission and responsibility—the very heart of the priestly calling. Eminent scholar Dr. Abraham Terian will be the keynote speaker. He will discuss the historical place of preaching in the life of the Church, the apostolic tradition of proclamation of the Gospel and evangelization in the modern world. This will follow by small group discussions, where our clergy will identify areas for growth, propose practical and constructive solutions for effective preaching and evangelization in our parishes.

During the Ladies Assembly, we will invite the participants to see the broader picture of our mission and vision, emphasizing the purpose and meaning behind every event and program. Indeed, impact is more important than intention—across all areas of faith, fellowship, and heritage. It is equally clear that women are vital for community outreach, mentorship, family support, and Christian education and are largely untapped resource for the life of the Church.

PRIORITIES FOR THE PARISHES

Moving forward, our focus will be to align our mission on the diocesan and parish levels. The priorities are:

- (a) to strengthen spiritual formation through intentional programs and consistent engagement;
- (b) to support parishes in developing realistic, evidence-based strategic plans;
- (c) to cultivate stewardship and expand membership, including dues-paying membership, as a foundation for sustainability;
- (d) and to invest in leadership development at every level of parish life.

As part of this effort, we are launching a comprehensive survey of our parishes, which will formally begin at this Assembly. This study will provide important data about the views and opinions of the members of our communities, about the various aspects of

parish life and faith. This will help us better understand both our strengths and our areas of growth. In this way, we continue to embrace listening not as a formality, but as a ministry.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the earliest opportunity, parish leadership is expected to convene special meetings to align all programs with the diocesan direction and to communicate this message clearly and consistently.

In this process, discipline is essential—especially in execution. Our efforts will fall short if clergy and parish leaders do not work in full collaboration. The integrity of our Christian mission depends on the strength of that connection. While we remain understanding and supportive, we will also be firm in requiring adherence. At the Diocesan level, it is our responsibility to ensure that our efforts yield meaningful results. For this reason, we must address, with clarity and resolve, anything that stands in the way of this mission.

As we approach the centennial of our Diocese, much work remains. Yet we proceed with faith, knowing that what has begun in vision, discipline, and prayer will bear fruit in time.

May our Diocese continue to grow, and truly become a living Church, where faith is not only proclaimed, but lived.

Prayerfully,

ARCHBISHOP HOVNAN DERDERIAN

Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America

99th Diocesan Assembly

May 2026

Stewardship is how we use and manage the talents and the blessings that God has given us to serve our communities.

As we gather once again to reflect on our shared life and mission, I offer this report with gratitude, clarity, and a renewed sense of responsibility. Over the past year, **our Diocese has been working to strengthen our core pillars—*faith, heritage, and fellowship***. We have made meaningful progress on various projects under our core pillars and continue to look for more ways to grow our impact. We are called to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Accordingly, our duty is to ensure we are faithful to our mission and create a sustainable future for our church.

STEWARDSHIP AS A CORE RESPONSIBILITY

Stewardship is not simply about finances. It is about ***how we manage our time, our talents, and our treasures*** in service to our church community. True stewardship requires ***intentionality, discipline, and accountability***. Stability has been a blessing, but stewardship is how we transform stability into sustainability. Without it, even well-resourced communities slowly lose vitality and purpose.

PARISH SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Over the past year, the Diocese has continued to support parishes in need—through financial assistance and strategic partnerships. These actions were taken not to foster long-term dependency, but to provide breathing room and opportunity for renewal. That time must now be used wisely. ***A healthy Diocese depends on healthy parishes***, and healthy parishes are those that can sustain themselves while fully living their mission.

The Diocese exists to support, guide, and equip—but it cannot replace parish responsibility. Self-sufficiency is not about independence from the Diocese; it's about being equipped to do the work we're called to do. Parishes that are financially and operationally sound are better positioned to serve their faithful, engage the next generation, and be present in their communities.

PLANNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

One of the clearest lessons from recent years is this: ***good intentions are not a plan***. Too many parishes continue to operate without clear financial and ministry planning, relying instead on keeping the status quo, the Diocese, reserves, or short-term solutions. Reserves are not a strategy. ***Planning—rooted in data, realistic assessment, and honest conversation—is essential***. Every parish must be willing to look clearly at its demographics, finances, leadership capacity, and level of engagement, and then chart a path forward. ***Stewardship requires not only generosity, but accountability and foresight***.

STEWARDSHIP IN SERVICE OF MISSION

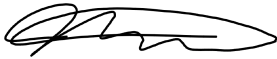
Finally, ***stewardship must always serve our mission—not merely maintain our institutions***. When stewarded well, resources lead to deeper engagement, stronger youth presence, and

meaningful community partnerships. We cannot lament the absence of youth or growth if we are not investing our time and energy where people actually are. *Self-sufficient parishes are not inward-focused; they are outward-serving, visible, and alive.*

A CALL FORWARD

As delegates and leaders, you are entrusted not only with preserving what you have inherited, but with preparing what will be handed on. Stewardship is the bridge between faithfulness today and vitality tomorrow. Let us embrace this responsibility with honesty, courage, and hope—so that our parishes, and our Diocese, do more than endure. May they thrive.

Respectfully,



Harout Markarian
Executive Director

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT (2025)

As Program Director of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, I present a summary of the work carried out during 2025, with particular focus on key projects and areas of responsibility.

The Etchmiadzin Children's Fund (ECF) remained an ongoing commitment, specifically through the coordination of the nutrition program at the St. Grigor Narekatsi Cultural Center in Armavir. This initiative continues to support children by ensuring access to nutritious meals within the framework of the Center's educational and community programs.

Work on the Annual Philanthropic Impact project included data processing and analysis, followed by the preparation, design, and publication of the report. The report was then distributed through appropriate channels, supporting the Diocese's commitment to transparency and accountability.

The Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund continued to develop through coordinated efforts with the board. This included the coordination of fundraising campaigns, ongoing updates to the donor database, and efforts toward endowment enhancement. The expansion of scholarship grants remained a priority.

In the area of Local Missions, collaboration continued with local government agencies, the Glendale Unified School District, and healthcare institutions including St. Joseph Providence Hospital, Adventist Health Glendale, Glendale Memorial Hospital, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Ongoing assistance to the Primate included parish correspondence, preparation of guidelines and directives, organization of meetings, drafting of pastoral letters, and general correspondence, ensuring the effective administration of diocesan life.

Preparation for the Diocesan Annual Assembly involved coordination across several areas, including the preparation of materials, ratification letters, revision of parish reports, and the compilation of annual reporting.

Contributions to the Diocese's website and media included the preparation of reflections and articles for publication.

The Candle Project continued through the processing and shipping of orders, along with inventory management.

General support was provided through ongoing assistance to parishes, coordination with diocesan auxiliary bodies, and collaboration with the Executive Director's and Accounting offices on various projects.

Commitment to continued education was reflected in the preparation of presentations and lectures offered to different groups within the Diocese and the public at large.

Finally, work with the Strategic Planning Committee continued in the areas of institutional innovation, assessment, spiritual discernment, data collection and analysis, and proposal development, contributing to the Diocese's broader strategic direction.

In summary, the year was marked by consistent, focused work across these core areas, supporting the mission and ongoing development of the Western Diocese.

Respectfully,
DIRAN AVAGYAN



Institutional Innovation in the Western Diocese

**Vision, Programs,
Transformative Activities**

“The Church is not just a place we visit. It is a way of life,
rooted in faith, inspired by heritage.”

—Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate

Institutional Innovation in the Western Diocese Vision, Programs, and Transformative Activities

Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian
Director of Institutional Innovation

I. Foundational Vision: A Church Lived Daily

The Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, under the leadership of the Primate, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, articulates its mission not merely as an institutional mandate, but as a *daily way of life*. At the heart of this vision is a deliberate shift away from understanding the Church solely as a physical destination visited on Sundays, toward embracing it as a living, formative presence that shapes the everyday spiritual, cultural, and moral lives of its faithful.

This vision is encapsulated in the unifying theme: “Rooted in Faith, Inspired by Heritage.”

Through this guiding principle, the Diocese affirms that Christian faith and Armenian identity are not parallel inheritances but mutually reinforcing realities. Faith gives depth and purpose to heritage, while heritage provides concrete expression and continuity to faith. Institutional innovation, therefore, is understood not as disruption for its own sake, but as faithful renewal—ensuring that Christian truths remain vibrant and accessible in contemporary contexts.

II. Core Principles of the Mission

The mission of the Western Diocese is structured around transforming the values of the Armenian Apostolic Church into a lived, embodied experience. Several interrelated principles define this approach:

1. Building a Living Relationship with God

Central to the Diocese’s mission is helping individuals “*Get Closer to God.*” This is achieved by deepening knowledge of Jesus Christ and encouraging the active application of His teachings in daily decision-making, relationships, and moral choices. Faith is understood not as abstract belief, but as relational commitment and lived discipleship.

2. Integrating Faith into Daily Life

The Diocese promotes a “Live Your Faith Every Day” ethos, emphasizing that connection with God is sustained through daily prayer, ongoing spiritual learning, and active engagement in parish

and community life. This approach intentionally dissolves the divide between the holy and the secular, encouraging the faithful to encounter God in work, family life, and social responsibilities.

3. Embracing Armenian Identity as a Living Heritage

Armenian identity is presented not as nostalgia, but as a living inheritance that must be consciously shared and renewed. The Diocese encourages the integration of Armenian history, language, art, music, and family customs into everyday life, ensuring that heritage remains meaningful and transmissible to future generations.

4. Diakonia: Service as the “Liturgy After the Liturgy”

Service is understood as a continuation of worship beyond the church walls. Diakonia transforms love into action and expresses faith through tangible care for others. In this framework, social responsibility and charitable engagement are not optional activities but essential expressions of Christian identity.

III. Strategic Vision: Making Faith a Living Experience

To translate its mission into practical reality, the Western Diocese has launched a series of interrelated initiatives designed to embed faith, heritage, and service into the modern rhythms of life.

Key initiatives include:

- **Innovating Our Parish** – revitalizing local parishes as vibrant spiritual homes.
- **Innovation and Media Center** – leveraging digital technology and storytelling.

Together, these initiatives move the Church beyond its physical boundaries and into homes, digital spaces, and everyday routines.

IV. Leadership Formation for a Living Mission

Institutional innovation is sustained through intentional leadership development that integrates spiritual depth, theological grounding, and practical competence.

Altar Servers Leadership Program

Serving over 250 deacons and altar servers, this program frames ministry as *faith-inspired leadership*:

- Deepened understanding of liturgy and scriptural foundations,
- Training in pastoral presence, empathetic listening, and visitation,
- Exploration of digital tools and hybrid ministry models for diverse demographics.

Church Leadership Orientation

More than 400 parish council members and diocesan delegates participate in orientation seminars that align governance with spiritual mission, shifting leadership culture from administrative maintenance to visionary service.

Lay Ministry Program

This initiative empowers parishioners to assume teaching and ministerial roles, ensuring that parish life is sustained by a knowledgeable, committed laity. The Diocese directly addresses modern challenges through seminar series, such as “Contemporary Social and Moral Issues: Armenian Church Perspective.”

V. Guided Discernment and Faithful Renewal

Through these integrated efforts, the Western Diocese advances a vision of institutional innovation grounded in faithfulness rather than novelty. By combining the rich tradition of the Church with contemporary tools, the Diocese ensures that the Church is not merely preserved, but *lived*—in homes, digital spaces, workplaces, and communities.

Ultimately, the Western Diocese seeks to form a spiritually rooted, culturally inspired, and socially engaged community—one that understands the Church not as a place we visit, but as a mission we live every single day.

Education & Leadership Mission of the Western Diocese

Dr. Hratch Tchilingirian
Director of Institutional Innovation
Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

Building Faith, Leadership, and Community

Continuing Education within the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church constitutes a dynamic and multi-faceted ministry, functioning both as the foundation of Christian formation and as a strategic framework for lifelong learning. Within the broader Christian tradition, education occupies a place of critical importance, serving as the primary means by which the Armenian Church cultivates discipleship, preserves doctrinal integrity, and ensures the transmission of faith across generations. The programs, initiatives, and activities outlined below exemplify the Diocese's commitment to education at every stage of life and within the important spheres of church engagement. This secures the rootedness of the Armenian faithful in their Christian faith, Armenian heritage, and ecclesial traditions.

I. Foundational Christian Education

At the parish level, Saturday and Sunday schools remain the foundation of Armenian and Christian education in the Western Diocese. Nearly every parish hosts one or both, ensuring that young Armenians are introduced to the language, history, faith, and rich culture of their ancestors. Saturday schools focus on instilling national pride and cultural identity, while Sunday schools are dedicated to Christian formation and moral development.

A. Sunday School

The Sunday School of the Western Diocese serves as a core ministry of the church. It is held in **18 parishes for over 750 students and led by over 80 teachers** (2023-2024)—It nurtures the spiritual growth and faith formation of children and youth with a strong foundation in Scripture, liturgy, and the traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Beyond education, the Sunday School

cultivates a sense of community, belonging, and moral responsibility, shaping young people to become active participants in the life of the Church.

The **Christian Education Council (CEC)** provides a unified program for all parish Sunday schools. Under the leadership of the Diocesan Primate, a six-year curriculum was developed and published in 2022. The program offers systematic and rigorous instruction based on the sacred teachings and traditions of the Armenian Church. It upholds the Faith of the Armenian Apostolic Church and cautions students about extraneous influences.

The Diocese organizes regular training sessions and develops curricula for teachers, underscoring the conviction that those who serve in these schools play a vital role in safeguarding the moral and spiritual treasures of the Armenian people.

B. Saturday Schools

Saturday Schools form a cornerstone of Armenian language and cultural education throughout the Western Diocese. During the 2024-2025 academic year, **16 parishes** held Saturday schools with over **1600 students**, led by over **100 teachers**. The 2025–2026 school year, the curriculum incorporates classes on the Armenian Church to strengthen the connection between language, culture, and faith.

C. Day Schools

The education mission of the Diocese expands further with day schools. The **Hovsepien School** in Pasadena, founded in 1984 at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, has long been a sought-after Armenian school for the community. It has **250 students** and a faculty of **40 teachers** (2024-2025). It continues to thrive under the care of the Diocese and the parish, preserving the Armenian language and faith for new generations.

Recognizing the growing needs of the wider community in the Western United States, the Diocese is establishing two new Armenian day schools in **Glendale** and **Las Vegas**. The buildings are under construction. These two schools will anchor Armenian identity in these flourishing communities.

The Primate and the diocesan clergy also provide spiritual and pastoral care to Armenian schools in the greater Los Angeles area through regular visits and meetings with the students, as well as on holidays and other special occasions. These include the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Charlotte and Elise Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School, Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School, and Narek Armenian Saturday School.

II. Youth and Young Adult Formation

A. Armenian Church Youth Organization | ACYO

This youth organization is one of the longest running and important programs of the Diocese, founding nearly 80 years ago. In recent years ACYO is experiencing a renaissance within the Diocese. Its diverse programming includes retreats, pilgrimages, charitable initiatives, spiritual discussions with clergy, and sports events, which attract more than **500 young people** annually. A growing number of youth actively participate in prayer gatherings and faith-based discussions, ensuring that young people remain integral to the life of the Church.

B. Diocesan Camp

The Diocese hosts youth programs, retreats, and a variety of activities at the *Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian Camp*, a 160-acre property in Dunlap, California, just outside Kings Canyon National Park. Nestled at an elevation of 4,400 feet, the camp offers a peaceful and scenic environment ideal for reflection, fellowship, and community building.

Each summer, the program welcomes nearly **500 young campers** for four one-week sessions, giving Armenian youth the opportunity to learn, grow, and connect in a supportive and natural setting. The camp has **175 counselors, staff and volunteers**.

The camp's roots trace back to 1964, when it began as the Summer Religious Study Conference with only 32 participants at Dinky Creek in the Sierra Mountains. Today more than 500 youth annually take part in the programs.

III. Clergy and Lay Vocation Development

A. Recruitment and Training of Candidates for Priesthood

Recognizing the vital importance of identifying and preparing future clergy, the Diocese places particular emphasis on the recruitment of qualified candidates who demonstrate both spiritual vocation and pastoral potential. Through outreach and discernment programs, the Diocese seeks individuals capable of sustaining the Church's mission and providing generational leadership within the Armenian community. Preparatory courses are offered to guide candidates in discerning their call to ordained priesthood and to provide a foundation for advanced seminary studies. This structured formation ensures that future priests are not only well-equipped academically and spiritually but also prepared to shepherd their communities with faithfulness, integrity, and enduring pastoral competence.

B. Deacons' and Altar Servers' Training

The Diocese conducts annual week-long formation programs for newly ordained deacons and altar servers. Convened at the Diocesan Camp, these programs provide systematic instruction in liturgical practices, while fostering the participants' spiritual development and deepening their vocational commitment. Through a combination of practical training, guided reflection, and

mentorship, these sessions prepare participants to undertake their ministerial responsibilities with competence and devotion.

Building on this foundation, the new Altar Servers Leadership Program, launched in June 2025, is designed for the benefit of over 250 deacons and altar servers within the Western Diocese. The program aims to deepen participants' theological understanding, enhance pastoral competencies, and refine liturgical practice. By fortifying their formation, it equips these emerging leaders to uphold the sacred traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church and develop their leadership in pastoral ministries of the parishes across the Diocese.

C. Lay Ministry Program

Launched in May 2024, the Lay Ministry Program builds on the ongoing educational series in Christianity and Armenian Church studies. Designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the Faith, it also equips them for future teaching and ministerial roles. Over the course of the year, 20-25 learners progress through structured modules before moving into a second phase of specialized study under guided mentorship.

The growth of lay ministry carries special significance for the Western Diocese. In an era when parishes face increasing demands and clergy often serve multiple communities, trained and committed lay leaders would provide vital support in sustaining parish life. Lay ministers can assist in teaching, outreach, liturgical preparation, and community-building, ensuring that the spiritual and cultural heritage of the Armenian Church continues to flourish. \

IV. Initiatives in Parish Leadership and Engagement

A. Parish Leadership Training Program

In February 2025, the Diocese launched the Parish Leadership Training Program, designed for parish council members, diocesan delegates, and committee executives. Through bi-monthly educational lectures and seminars, participants engage deeply with the faith, traditions, and mission of the Armenian Church—as well as practical parish and pastoral issues. By equipping parish leaders with both knowledge and vision, the program aims to strength the capacity of local communities to serve their congregations effectively.

B. *Innovating Our Parish* Initiative

Recognizing that vibrant parishes are essential to the life of the communities in the Diocese, the *Innovating Our Parish* initiative was launched in 2024 to revitalize parish life and foster fellowship and cultural vitality. Through regional gatherings in Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, parish leaders collaborate to share ideas, explore new strategies, and reimagine how their churches can more fully serve their communities. Complementing these gatherings, a practical guidebook

provides tools to support faith formation, encourage youth engagement, and promote cultural enrichment.

V. Continuing Christian Formation

A. Bible Studies

Since 2006, the Diocese offers comprehensive Bible Study programs, reaching thousands of faithful across parishes and online platforms. These programs not only bring Scripture to life but also serve as a cornerstone for lifelong faith formation. They provide parishioners and wider community members with structured presentations to deepen their understanding of God’s Word. The Diocese aims to foster both individual spiritual growth and collective engagement through the study of the Scriptures.

B. Christian Study Courses

Weekly Faith Formation Courses

Since 2012, the Diocese has offered weekly courses examining the fundamental principles of the Armenian faith. Leveraging modern audiovisual technologies, these courses are recorded and widely disseminated, providing systematic faith instruction that is accessible to a broad and diverse audience. Through this approach, the Diocese ensures consistent theological education while engaging parishioners in meaningful study of their spiritual heritage. Evolving from the Christian Study Courses, the “**Disciple’s Mission**” (**Առաքելոց Լսարան**) initiative extends educational efforts beyond Los Angeles, bringing teaching, prayer, and fellowship to Armenian Church communities throughout the Western Diocese. Since its inception in 2012, nearly twenty parishes and missions have hosted these programs.

C. Spiritual Retreats

Diocesan Summer Camp Retreats: Since 2013, the Diocese hosts three-day retreats at the Diocesan camp, offering participants opportunities for in-depth study, communal prayer, and spiritual fellowship. These retreats exemplify the biblical principle of *koinonia*, fostering unity and shared growth in faith.

ACYOA Retreat: Annual retreats are organized for members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization, offering young people an opportunity to step away from daily routines and deepen their faith in a prayerful environment. Through worship, fellowship, and engaging discussions, participants strengthen their spiritual foundations while building lasting friendships rooted in shared values. These gatherings nurture the next generation of leaders.

Women’s Retreats are held annually, frequently held at a retreat site in Malibu. They provide a space and time for a prayerful and reflective experience for women—to come together and deepen their spiritual lives through liturgy, guided prayer, and conversations with pastors.

VI. Scholarly and Educational Resources

A. Diocesan Publications and Educational Resources

Since 2003, the Diocese has published over 500 titles, including more than 100 authored by the Primate, along with numerous booklets, study guides, and educational resources. These publications play a vital role in supporting spiritual education, providing parishioners of all ages with accessible and systematic materials for deepening their understanding of the Armenian faith.

Among these resources, the three-volume textbooks for Sunday Schools—available in both Eastern and Western Armenian—serve as foundational tools for parish-based education, ensuring consistent theological instruction across the Diocese. Landmark publications, such as the modern Armenian translation of *Urbatagirk*, the 1512 first ever printed Armenian book, further connect contemporary readers with the rich heritage of Armenian Christian literature. Through these efforts, the Diocese not only preserves and transmits sacred knowledge but also fosters a culture of lifelong learning, enabling the faithful to engage more deeply with Scripture, liturgy, and tradition.

B. “Voskeghenik” Series

Launched in 2019, the *Voskeghenik* series is a scholarly initiative dedicated to translating rare and classical Armenian spiritual texts into modern Armenian, thereby making these works accessible to contemporary readers. To date, six volumes have been published, with additional volumes in preparation, reflecting the Diocese’s ongoing commitment to preserving and disseminating the intellectual and spiritual heritage of Armenian Christianity. By bridging historical scholarship and modern readership, the series fosters both deeper understanding and active engagement with the Church’s rich theological tradition.

C. Diocesan Library

Opened in 2005 by His Holiness Karekin II, the library now holds over 15,000 volumes, including rare books, manuscripts, and illuminated miniatures. With a unique collection for Armenian studies in the Diaspora, the Library serves as an essential resource for both scholarly research and parish-based education—including educators, clergy, and laypersons.

VII. Advancing Education in Armenia and the Diaspora

A. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund

Established in 2013, the Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund represents a cornerstone of the Diocese’s mission in education. Grounded in the conviction that every Armenian child deserves an Armenian education, the fund has provided sustained support to numerous students in the Los Angeles area, particularly those from families with financial need. In just over a decade, it has evolved into a permanent foundation, serving as a vital instrument in safeguarding access to Armenian schools.

B. Yerevan State University

In 2024, the establishment of the Friends of Yerevan State University Foundation at the Diocesan headquarters marked a new level of institutional cooperation between the Diocese and Armenia’s leading university. In response to the displacement of the people of Artsakh in 2023, the Diocese, in partnership with YSU, extended direct tuition support to hundreds of displaced students. This timely intervention ensured that young people from Artsakh were able to pursue their higher education without interruption.

C. American University of Armenia

Since 2019, the Western Diocese has been recognized as one of the “100 Pillars of AUA,” contributing to the strengthening of the American University of Armenia through strategic investments in its programs, faculty, and infrastructure. These contributions underscore the Diocese’s commitment to ensuring that Armenia’s most talented students are afforded access to world-class academic opportunities.

D. Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology

Through its partnership with the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), the Diocese has demonstrated its dedication to advancing innovation and research in Armenia. By supporting students from Armenia and the Diaspora engaged in pioneering STEM initiatives, the Diocese has aligned itself with the nation’s long-term innovation agenda, with a particular focus on the training of specialists in artificial intelligence and related fields.

E. Harichavank Monastic Seminary

In 2012, with the generous patronage of Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian, the Diocese undertook the full restoration of the Harichavank Monastic Seminary. Today, this historic complex serves as a center of theological formation for seminarians preparing for service in the Armenian Church. The seminary continues to receive the personal attention of Archbishop Derderian, who regularly visits the institution during his pastoral journeys to Armenia.

Epistle Impact Report To the 99th Diocesan Assembly

From the word “Apostle,” we derived the name “Epistle” as the ‘e’lectronic ministry of the Western Diocese. Since 2022 we have been producing content that showcases the teachings of the Armenian Church for the world today. Epistle is a technological bridge between the earliest expressions of Christianity, that is, from the Armenian Church to the world today. As an evangelical mission powered by the Traditions of the Armenian Church, Epistle’s vision is to illuminate and heal the world with the heart and spirit of Jesus Christ’s teachings.

Epistle maintains a dynamic website with daily spiritual messages, podcasts, fusion Bible studies, virtual lectures, virtual Sunday School and videos that are all disseminated freely. The website logs between 20,000 to 30,000 users each month, with a presence on social media platforms maintained by an exceptional group of team members from Armenia.

Epistle’s outreach evolved out of the faith-in-action component of the teachings. During 2025, Epistle brought relief to refugees from Artsakh that have relocated in Yerevan and Vanadzor. A team from Epistle travelled to Vanadzor and set up a sewing program for refugee women to move them to self-sufficiency. Outreach programs also include Sponsor-a-child (Yerevan); Monthly homeless feeds (Glendale); Soldiers home (Yerevan); Children’s Memorial (metaverse); Vibrantz for Vanadzor; Sun Down Syndrome home (Yerevan); Conferences, Seminars, Retreats, Mini-series on Advent, Lenten, Soul of Ararat, Documentation of sacred sites - Metaverse and Physical Exhibits & memorials; Collaborations and professional consulting services; Archeological Presentations and Collection.

A hard copy of Epistle’s 2025 Year-in-Review Magazine is included in the Diocesan Assembly package and is available electronically at <https://epistle.net/year-in-review-2025>. Epistle functions under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, who offers his full support to the Ministry. In his words, “Epistle is the future Armenian Church, today.” and is funded by Dr. Eric Esrailian and family along with private donations from the general public.

Reclaim Conference

Reclaim is an annual conference which began in 2017, to "reclaim our Faith in a changing world." The conference consists of speakers and discussions, both panel and public. It is run on volunteer efforts and funded by a nominal ticket price.

The 2025 topic was "Reclaiming Reality in a World Defined by Artificial Intelligence." The entire conference, along with the presentations is archived at <https://epistle.net/reclaim-2025>

Reclaim provides a forum for members of the church and community to engage in a lively discussion about the essentials of faith and the building of church communities. Reclaim highlights the role of the Western Diocese in the spiritual growth of the community.

Submitted by Fr. Vazken Movsesian, 6 April 2026

WESTERN DIOCESE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The mission of the Stewardship Program is aligned with the Armenian Apostolic Church's principal mission of being a light to all Armenian believers, providing the faithful with the spiritual knowledge and nourishment to ensure their growth toward becoming mature Christians [*...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ (Romans 10:17)*]. In practical terms, therefore, the mission of the Western Diocese Stewardship Program is to ensure the future vitality and growth of our church.

The fulfillment of this mission requires:

- 1) **Preparation of Clergy** – This aspect of the Stewardship Program entails Christian Education. One of the most important needs of our Diocese is the education of pastors to ensure the continued spiritual vitality and relevance of our Armenian Churches in today's secular world.
- 2) **Parish Support** – By this writing, the near-term pastoral needs of our Diocese have been addressed, and the attention needs to be focused on ensuring that the newly established parishes can become viable and fully-functioning **self-sufficient** parishes as quickly as possible. This aspect entails providing financial assistance to the parishes by subsidizing the clergy's stipends. This support is envisaged as a partnership between the Diocese and the Parishes, with an understanding that the Diocese's involvement and support will decline over time.
- 3) **Youth and ACYO Programs** -- We believe that the future vitality and growth of our Diocese depends on our ability to motivate young Armenian students to become active participants in our church. Our Christian legacy critically rests on bringing our youth back to church; this, in turn, will have a double positive effect. It will ensure our communities will integrate into the local environment, but will retain their Armenian heritage and culture. This aspect will be addressed following the transition of parish support.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Preparation of Clergy

The Stewardship Program has supported several clergy candidates over the last decade. The support provided included stipends, health insurance, tuition and books, and travel expense reimbursement. We are grateful that several qualified clergy candidates have accepted the calling to become clergy of the Armenian Church. The following list provides the names and current assignments of clergy who have been participants of the Stewardship Program of the Western Diocese:

- Rev. Fr. Avedis Abovian – Holy Apostles Armenian Apostolic Church, Tujunga
- Rev. Fr. Serovbe Alanjian
- Rev. Fr. Mesrop Ash - St. John Armenian Apostolic Church, San Francisco
- Rev. Fr. Isaiah Bedros - St. Paul Armenian Apostolic Church, Fresno
- Rev. Fr. Mashdots Keshishian – St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Yetttem
- Rev. Fr. Yermia Khatchatryan – Visiting Pastor, Ararat Home
- Rev. Fr. Yegishe Ksachikyan - St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Sacramento
- Rev. Fr. Zaven Markosyan - St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, Sant Clarita

- Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan - St. Vartan Armenian Apostolic Church, Oakland
- Rev. Fr. Zacharia Saribekyan - St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church, Phoenix
- Rev. Fr. Khajag Shahbazyan - St. Leon Armenian Cathedral, Burbank
- Rev. Fr. Haroutioun Tachejian - St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, Los Angeles
- Rev. Fr. Kevork Abyan- Armenian Apostolic Church, Ventura County
- Very Rev. Fr. Eremia Abgaryan- Vicar General & Youth Director

Parish Support

The Stewardship Program has supported/or is currently supporting several parishes to ensure their success. Given below is a list of parishes currently supported by the Stewardship Program:

- Holy Apostles Armenian Apostolic Church, Tujunga
- St. Geragos Armenian Apostolic Church, Las Vegas
- Ventura County Mission Parish, Thousand Oaks
- Holy Resurrection Armenian Apostolic Church, Seattle, Washington

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Your help is crucial for the success of the Stewardship Program and the future of your Armenian Apostolic Church. You can financially assist the program by contacting any member of the Diocesan Stewardship Committee.

The Stewardship Committee thanks all Stewards of the Western Diocese for their generous donations, without which we would not be able to fulfill our mission. We further promise that we will be wise stewards and will use the funds at our disposal to do our utmost to help our Armenian Church.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate and President
 Derik Ghookasian, Chairman
 Silva Katchiguan, Vice Chair
 Aida Askejian, Secretary
 Rev. Fr. Mesrop Ash
 Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Ksachikyan
 Rev. Fr. Krikor Zakaryan
 Hon. Adrienne Krikorian
 Pamela Abaci
 Angel Kendirjian
 Dcn. Barlow Der Megerdchian
 Carmen Antonian
 Anto Cingoz
 Michael Missakian
 Ramela Serobyan
 Aida Sethian



ST. NERSESS ARMENIAN SEMINARY Ս. ՆԵՐՍԷՍ ԸՆԾԱՅԱՐԱՆ

486 Bedford Road • Armonk, NY 10504
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2025 Annual Activity Report



St. Nersess Armenian Seminary is located on a beautiful 5.5-acre campus in Armonk, NY, featuring a theological center and chapel, library, classrooms and offices; residences for single and married seminarians, guests, and faculty; a kitchen and dining hall, gym, gardens, and recreation complex. In 2026, a new building will open to provide additional guest rooms and housing for clergy.

As the only Armenian seminary in the Western Hemisphere, St. Nersess prepares priests and lay leaders for ministry in the Armenian Church across North America, equipping them to respond to the spiritual and socio-cultural challenges facing the Church today. Since its founding, the seminary has formed more than **78 lay ministers and priests** — including four bishops — who serve the Armenian Church. St. Nersess is governed by a Board of Directors led by President Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, and Vice President Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese.

In May 2025, the seminary celebrated the graduation of Dn. Zareh Mirzayan (Western Diocese) and Dn. Arman Shirikyan (Eastern Diocese). In September 2025, four new students joined three continuing seminarians who are students of the Western Diocese — several pursuing Master of Divinity degrees — along with three part-time students studying both remotely and in person. The seminary also welcomes students taking individual courses to support advanced studies at other institutions, as well as participants in its expanding distance learning program.



In addition to their academic coursework, seminarians travel to parishes to serve during the Holy Badarak and deliver the homily; lead and speak at retreats and/or youth gatherings; and participate in Ecumenical prayer services. During the summer months, they complete field education, including Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), serve at Diocesan summer camps, and study at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. After graduation, they continue

their spiritual formation at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin. Concurrently, students take courses at nearby St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in systematic and pastoral theology, Scripture, patristics, church history, parish administration, prison ministry, and biblical Greek.



The seminary's faculty includes three professors, one assistant professor, and seven adjunct instructors specializing in liturgical theology, sacred music, spirituality, Armenian Church history and canon law, homiletics (Armenian and English), Armenian Christian art and culture, and Classical and Modern Armenian. Administration is overseen by the Dean with the support of a facilities and operations manager, cook, and part-time staff including an administrative assistant, controller, marketing and development director, and librarian.



Online learning expanded significantly in 2025 through [St. Nersess Online](#), made possible by a Lilly Endowment Compelling Preaching Grant. This initiative extends the seminary's reach beyond its campus, offering flexible, accessible programs to clergy and laity alike. Programs include: **Clergy Continuing Education** (Master Classes in Ministry): Opportunities for clergy of the Eastern and Western Dioceses to refresh and strengthen their ministries. The St. Nersess Preaching Program and *Karoz* platform were especially well received, featuring two clergy workshops and two seminars in both Dioceses; **Lay Ministry Training**: Pathways for dedicated individuals seeking to serve and lead within their faith communities; **Public Offerings**: Open to all who wish to deepen their understanding of Scripture, Liturgy, Art, History, and Tradition from an Armenian Christian perspective. Recent offerings included courses on "Living the Bible with St. Nersess Shnorhali", "Armenians in Jerusalem and the Holy Land," "Syro-Armenian Interfaith," and a three-day International Conference held at the seminary entitled, "St. Nersess Shnorhali in His Context."

During the summer of 2025, the seminary's popular programs — the Deacons' Training Program in NY and CA, two High School Summer Conferences, and Yn. Diane Chevian Memorial Youth Choir Workshop — welcomed participants from the Eastern and Western Dioceses and Jerusalem, achieving the highest enrollment in years. The Youth Choir Workshop remains free of charge thanks to the Yn. Diane Chevian Memorial Fund. [Registration](#) is now open for the 2026 Summer Conferences and Youth Choir Workshop. Fr. Mardiros Chevian also attended the 9th Annual Reclaim Conference held at the Western Diocese Headquarters in Burbank, in March 2025, and returned in October for the 60th Anniversary of Hye Camp and to meet with potential students.

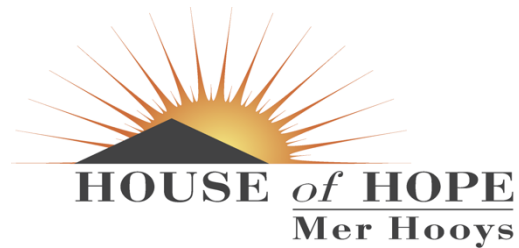


We welcome your continued support of St. Nersess:

- [Leadership Giving Circle](#) offers six donation levels to support the seminary on an annual basis.
- **Planned Giving Society** encourages donors to remember the seminary in their estate plans through retirement beneficiary designations, a will or trust, life insurance, or appreciated securities.
- **Parish Patrons** encourages parishes to include a line item in their annual budget to financially support the seminary.
- ***NEW*** [Fr. Mardiros Chevian St. Nersess Deacons' Training Program in Jerusalem Fund](#)

All donations to St. Nersess Seminary can be made online at <https://stnersess.edu> or by contacting the seminary office at 914-273-0200 or emailing info@stnersess.edu.

For more information, please visit [our website](#) and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.



MER HOOYS 2026 ANNUAL REPORT
WESTERN DIOCESE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Mer Hoos provides a residential educational and psychological support program at the Nakashian Children's Support Center in Yerevan, Armenia, to young at-risk girls from seriously disadvantaged family backgrounds. The Nakashian Children's Support Center is organized in Armenia as an institution of the Mother See. However, it operates solely under the direction of the House of Hope-Mer Hoos, Inc. Board of Directors and is funded 100 percent by the U.S. Board.

Our board members are Adrienne Krikorian, President, vice presidents Dn. Dr. Garo Garibian, and Dn. Dr. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, Treasurer Dn. Dr. Varoujan Aldebarmakian, and spiritual advisor Rev. Fr. Mesrop Ash. The organization, a 501c3 California corporation, funds the program's daily operations almost entirely from donations received from the Diaspora, and with the blessings and support of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese.

The operating budget for Mer Hoos has grown exponentially in the past 3 years because of inflation in Armenia. It now costs close to \$215,000 a year to operate, with salaries and related government mandated expenses for 20 staff making up more than 50 percent of the cost. Local donors from Armenia help us reduce costs by donating food and sweets, as well as field trips and birthday parties and gifts. In 2025 and 2026 we have been faced with some major structural and cosmetic building renovations to the building, which was opened in 2012. The total cost of building renovations and updated furniture, fixtures and equipment will be approximately \$65,000, the majority of which will be covered by generous donors.

The year 2025 was another very successful year for the Mer Hoos program. Our goal is to ensure that our girls get a good education and acquire the means to develop skills needed to become safely independent and psychologically healthy adults. We can confidently say we continue to meet that goal thanks to our dedicated and qualified staff in Armenia. Many of our staff have been with us from almost the beginning of our program.

Our children, ages 6-18, come from very poor or unsafe backgrounds, with little to no real hope for a productive future. Mer Hoos has given them that hope. In 2025 and in early 2026, we welcomed 4 new young girls. Two of those girls, twins ages 6 ½, come from a single parent (mother) who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. With no resources to care for her daughters during her medical challenges, the mother, a physician, reached out to social services for help. The Mer Hoos team agreed to accept the girls. We also brought in two older teens who have committed to accessing educational resources with a goal to enter university.

In July 2025, two of our girls, and three staff members, visited California. One of the girls, aged 16, is a talented pianist. She along with our mentor Arshaluys, a graduate of a music conservatory in Yerevan, performed a recital at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church in Pasadena. The two girls attended Hye Camp during the following week.

In addition to a broad education at school and in afterschool tutoring, our girls receive weekly religious instruction from one of our part-time staff member whose family members, including her Der Hayr husband, are 2023 Artsakh refugees strongly affiliated with the church. Our girls continued to participate in philanthropic events to help the children who were from victim families of Artsakh. Our board has budgeted a small amount of funds to cover the cost of that philanthropy. Our girls have learned that giving to others in need is a valuable way to develop self-confidence, and to appreciate the gifts of education, support, food, and lodging they were receiving while living at Mer Hoos!

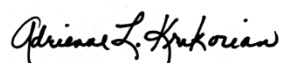
As our residents mature and become more self-sufficient, the program encourages our teens aged 16 and older to move into our transitional independent living accommodations within the Nakashian Children's Support Center. While continuing to be part of the Mer Hoos family, and mentors to the younger girls, they are learning to lead independent lives with continued support from our program. Our two oldest girls are studying at university and living in our transitional center.

Many members of the Western Diocese and His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian are strong supporters of Mer Hoos, both financially and operationally. We thank those parishes of the Western Diocese who continued to serve as annual sponsors of Mer Hoos during 2025 including St. John – San Francisco, St. Andrew - Cupertino, St. Peter - Van Nuys, St. James – Los Angeles, St. Vartan – Oakland, and St. Sahag-Mesrop - Reedley. We strongly urge our other parishes to actively support Mer Hoos through a targeted fundraiser, annual donations, and or by encouraging youth groups to take on a project supporting this valuable program.

We will celebrate our 14th anniversary on October 11, 2026. The Mer Hoos Board is hosting a two-week pilgrimage to Armenia, which will include an afternoon with our girls celebrating the anniversary. For more information, reach out to info@mer-hoos.org.

Please continue to help us support the young women currently under our care. We encourage individuals or small groups to become at least a \$600 annual sponsor for a child, which will help pay for their tutoring, special needs, and extracurricular lessons. Visit our website and follow our activities on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support to Mer Hoos.



Adrienne Krikorian, President

info@mer-hoos.org

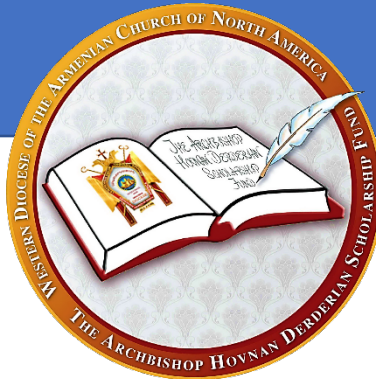
<https://mer-hoos.org/>

Residents in 2025



Our 5 little ones in 2025 and 4 from our original class (graduates).

THE ABP. HOVNAN DERDERIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund (the Fund) carries out an important mission: providing need-based scholarships to deserving students so they may continue their education in Armenian schools—safe, nurturing environments that promote Armenian culture and identity.

Today, the need for financial assistance is greater than ever, as Armenian schools face funding shortages due to a growing number of families requesting support.

Since 2013, the Fund has distributed approximately \$672,000, thanks to the generosity of our benefactors. Our established endowments now total \$1,338,646.

Additionally, in 2025, the Fund distributed \$28,000 to nine college students through the Dr. Harry Demirgian Scholarship.

Current recipients of the Fund include students from AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School (Canoga Park, CA); Armenian Sisters Academy (La Crescenta, CA); C&E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School (Sherman Oaks, CA); St. Gregory A. & M. Hovsepian School (Pasadena, CA); the Saturday Schools of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America (Burbank, CA); and the American University of Armenia.

In 2025, the Fund has distributed a total of \$70,500 in scholarships.

ԱՄՆ Արևմտյան թեմի շաբաթօրյա դպրոցների հաշվետվություն 2025–26 ուսումնական տարի

Թեմապատկան շաբաթօրյա դպրոցները վերջին տարիներին դարձել են գաղութի հոգեմտավոր կյանքի անբաժան և ստեղծարար զարդը՝ լույս ու գիտություն սփռելով իրենց շուրջը: Այսօր ԱՄՆ Արևմտյան թեմում գործում է 18 շաբաթօրյա դպրոց, որտեղ սովորում են մոտ 1700 աշակերտ և աշխատում են շուրջ 150 ուսուցիչ: Թեմապատկան շաբաթօրյա վարժարաններն ունեն բազմաթիվ առանձնահատկություններ, որոնցից կարելի է նշել մի քանիսը. նախ՝ դպրոցները բացառիկ են նրանով, որ աշխարհում միակներն են, որոնք արտոնագրված են **WASC-ի** (Արևմտյան դպրոցների և քոլեջների ասոցիացիայի) կողմից, բոլորը ներառված են մեկ կրթական ցանցում և առաջնորդվում են միասնական կրթական ծրագրերով:

Կարևոր է ընդգծել, որ Արևմտյան թեմի շաբաթօրյա դպրոցներն իրենց կառուցվածքով, կրթական, նորարարական և արդիական ծրագրերով օրինակելի են ամբողջ սփյուռքի տարածքում: Նրանց կողմից կազմակերպվող հայերենի ուսուցիչների ամենամյա հավաքներին մասնակցում են բազմաթիվ մանկավարժներ ոչ միայն Արևմտյան թեմից, այլև Հայ Առաքելական Սուրբ Եկեղեցու աշխարհասփյուռ թեմերից: Այս գիտաժողովներին դասախոսություններով հանդես են գալիս Հայաստանի և սփյուռքի ճանաչված գիտնականներ և կրթության կազմակերպիչներ:

2025–26 ուսումնական տարուց սկսած այն դպրոցներում, որոնք ունեն ընդլայնման հնարավորություն, ուսումնական շրջափուլը դարձել է յոթնամյա: Կրթօջախները հիմնականում ունեն իրենց սեփական կայքերը և ձգտում են համապատասխանել կրթական արդի պահանջներին: Այս ուսումնական տարվանից «Փոքրիկ հրեշտակներ» մայր դպրոցը համալրվել է համակարգչային դասարաններով, որտեղ աշակերտները հնարավորություն ունեն իրենց համակարգչային հմտությունները կիրառելու նաև մայրենի լեզվի ուսումնառության ընթացքում: Դպրոցի համար ստեղծվել է նաև էլեկտրոնային հասցեարան, որի միջոցով յուրաքանչյուր աշակերտ ունի դպրոցին պատկանող անհատական էլեկտրոնային հասցե:

Ուրախալի է, որ դպրոցներ են հիմնվում նաև այնպիսի ծխական համայնքներում, որտեղ գործող հայկական եկեղեցիներ դեռևս չկան: Վերջին շաբաթներին Առաջնորդ գերաշնորհ Ս. Հովնան արքեպիսկոպոս Տերտերյանի օրհնությամբ և և այցելու հովիվ, արժանապատիվ Ս. Զավեն քահանա

Մարկոսյանի գլխավորությամբ նոր դպրոց հիմնվեց Փալմդեյում: Դպրոցը տեղակայվել է հունական եկեղեցու տարածքում՝ այն ակնկալությամբ, որ սակարող է դառնալ ամուր հիմք՝ համայնքում սեփական հայկական եկեղեցի ունենալու գաղափարի ձևավորման համար: Մեկամսյա գործունեության ընթացքում արձանագրվել է մոտ 30 աշակերտ, որոնք բաժանված են երեք խմբի՝ փոքրիկների, առաջին և երկրորդ դասարանների:

ԱՄՆ Արևմտյան թեմի շաբաթօրյա դպրոցները շարունակում են իրենց կարևոր առաքելությունը՝ պահպանելով և տարածելով մայրենի լեզուն, մշակույթն ու ինքնությունը սփյուռքում: Կրթական միասնական ծրագրերը, նորարարական առաջընթացը, ուսուցիչների մասնագիտական զարգացումը և նոր դպրոցների հիմնադրումը վկայում են համակարգված և հեռանկարային զարգացման մասին: Այս ամենը նպաստում է ոչ միայն կրթական որակի բարձրացմանը, այլև համայնքային կյանքի ամրապնդմանը և հայկական արժեքների շարունակական փոխանցմանը գալիք սերունդներին:

ETCHMIADZIN CHILDREN'S FUND (ECF)

Karakert Village Initiative

The Etchmiadzin Children's Fund (ECF) was established to support children from disadvantaged families in Armenia by helping them remain in school and grow in a healthy and supportive environment.

In the last couple of years, ECF has partnered with the St. Grigor Narekatsi Spiritual-Cultural Center in the village of Karakert. Karakert is a rural community in Armenia's Armavir region, located near the Turkish border. The Center serves as a vital gathering place for village youth, offering educational, cultural, and community programs.

Initially, the Center operated a preschool and kindergarten program, where one of the most pressing needs was the provision of daily nutritious meals. ECF supported this need by helping ensure that children received healthy meals while attending school.

Today, the St. Grigor Narekatsi Center offers afterschool programs that combine educational enrichment, creative arts, cultural formation, and practical skills development. Children participate in activities such as music, dance, painting, traditional crafts, and other hands-on learning experiences, while also engaging with the cultural and spiritual heritage of their community.

In 2025, ECF contributed \$10,000 to support this initiative, helping fund the afterschool program and provide nutritious snacks for participating children. Proper nourishment remains an essential part of learning and development.

Through this partnership, ECF continues its mission of strengthening vulnerable communities by investing in the well-being and future of their children.





Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMITTE REPORT

Committee Name:

Committee Chair:

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

Annual Income (2025):

Annual Expense (2025):

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

Number of Committee Members:

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?



Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name:

Camp Board of Directors

Committee Chair:

Rami Gabriel

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

Several

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

Immeasurable

Annual Income (2025):

\$1,552,424.04

Annual Expense (2025):

\$548,514.57

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

Number of Committee Members:

9 + 1 Advisor + Executive Director

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

In 2025, the highlight of the Camp Board was celebrating 60 years of Camp with a Campfire Social and an Anniversary Gala in honor and memory of Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian on September 26th & 27th. These sold out events ignited the excitement of our alumni and brought together generations of campers. It was also tremendously successful in raising funds particularly for the kitchen and mess hall renovation. In addition, several donations were made toward specific buildings and projects that are much needed to improve the impact of deferred maintenance over the years. We are looking forward to breaking ground once we clear the county permitting process.

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

Here is a list of some of our major goals achieved this past year:

- Completed scheduled preventive maintenance and reduced deferred maintenance backlog.
- Created plans to renovate the camper bathhouse, the lodge, 2 staff cabins and 2 duplexes.
- Installed an all natural aeration system in Ketchoyan Lake for improved clarity and reduced muck.
- Installed a lighted path to the camper cabins for improved visibility and safety.
- Secured over \$1,000,000 in donations to be used towards renovations and improvements.

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

In 2026, with the generous donations provided, the Camp Board is working hard to execute the new projects in the small window of time allotted between the winter and the start of Camp season in late spring. We anticipate the benefit of a warm fall to continue to execute the completion of these projects. Once completed they will provide an even more welcoming, safe, and spiritually enriching place for our Diocese community. These renovations will improve the accessibility of the property, update the living spaces to provide a more comfortable experience and improve the outdoor spaces to provide a beautiful space to gather and worship.

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?

One of our many goals this year is to encourage each Western Diocese Parish to engage in our property and find an opportunity to use it. It is a great space for retreats and gatherings offering a natural environment for fellowship. Other Camp Board goals include:

- Improved communication with parishes and diocesan leadership to increase awareness and usage of the Camp facility.
- Build more consistent funding with support from each parish for long-term capital improvements and operation costs.



Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMITTE REPORT

Committee Name:

Hye Camp Program

Committee Chair:

Andrew Hagopian

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

4 Weeks of Summer Camp

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

640+

Annual Income (2025):

\$ 371,664.87

Annual Expense (2025):

\$ 227,326.30

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

\$ 144,338.57

Number of Committee Members:

11

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

Hye Camp 2025 continued to serve as a beacon of community, culture, and spiritual growth, bringing together campers and volunteer staff from various regions. Across four weeks, 444 campers engaged in diverse activities designed to strengthen Armenian identity, foster friendships, and promote personal and spiritual growth such as Armenian cooking, Armenian dance, and Badarak. As a program that services our entire Diocese, we are so grateful for the choreg from various Ladies Society's and fruit donation from parishioners.

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

Camper Fee \$690| Bus Fee \$150
Total Campers: 444 (185 new campers & 259 returning campers)
Total Volunteer Staff: 181
Total Paid Medical Staff and Lifeguards: 15
Scholarships Awarded: 39 (Paparigian Foundation: 31; J. Muradliyan Foundation: 6; Ruby Geragos Fund: 2
Income Transferred to the Camp Board Operations: \$145,000

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

We will continue to follow our mission statement "created to nurture the bodies, minds, and spirits of Armenian, youth in a natural setting, providing a stimulating and fun environment of community that inspires individual, growth and the values of Christian Fellowship". We have 4 weeks planned and anticipate another successful summer. Our goal is to accomodate 500+ campers this year. There are already over 175 staff that have applied to volunteer for the summer of 2026. The Committee continues to place importance on our curriculum to ensure it is relevant to the campers. Counselor training is also a main focus. We have moved the date of the training to anticipate increased attendance.

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?

We believe more support from our Diocesan parishes will provide an anchor for our campers and in their community as they attend Hye Camp. With the presence of more clergy during our sessions, we are able to close the gap between Hye Camp and Church. Although we serve the Diocese, most of our campers are not active in their local church. Having the presence of clergy will empower campers to continue their exploration of faith and heritage after returning home, rather than only learning about it at Camp.



Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name:

ACYO Central Council

Committee Chair:

Candace Karasarkisian & Sarah Kolyoyian

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

17

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

400

Annual Income (2025):

\$ 62,920.65

Annual Expense (2025):

\$ 45,323.88

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

\$ 0.00

Number of Committee Members:

7

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

The Armenian Church Youth Organization of the Western Diocese of North America (ACYO-WD) actively members into the life of the church by providing opportunities for Worship, Service, Education, and Fellowship according to the doctrines and traditions of the Armenian Apostolic Church. For example, the Spring & Fall provide spiritual & cultural education, worship, and fellowship for youth through interactive discussions & activities. Additionally, our Day of Giving & Primate's Christmas Fellowship events combined worship, service, fellowship, and youth to connect with and serve the elderly of Ararat Home.

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

Some goals that we achieved during the 2025 term include, increasing the number of attendees for our retreat achieved by having the highest attendance ever recorded for a retreat at our Fall Retreat during the week of 2025, with 120 attendees. We also saw an increase in dues-paying members, since the bylaw change increased the delegate count for the annual Convention & General Assembly. Lastly, the profit and attendance for our highest performing event, Sports Weekend, increased from the previous year. In 2024, we had 113 dues-paying members whereas in 2025, we had 275 dues-paying members.

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

One of our goals for the year 2026 is to introduce more worship to our annual Sports Weekend by bringing back the tradition of prayer prior to each game as well as the inclusion of an evening service for families to participate on Saturday night. We would also like to work on shifting the leadership focus within our chapters from a competitive to a more family-oriented & Christ-like approach. Through this we hope to encourage chapters to build a culture that reflects Christ's love.

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?

Some areas that we could improve to expand our impact is developing personal connections with the youth, their families, and alumni. With our increasing numbers, we need more of their support in encouraging the participating in church and the smooth-running of our events. Additionally, expanding our outreach to other organizations within the Western Diocese and outside communities will help bring in new members, as well as provide opportunities for youth to remain involved in their church communities outside of ACYO.

RETREAT 2025 REPORT

Since its inception in the year of 2013, the Christian Education Retreat committee of Western Diocese plans an annual retreat for 2 days to indulge in spiritual meditation and study of God's word in a tranquil atmosphere.

The main purpose of the spiritual retreat is to refocus and reevaluate as well as raise awareness in our spirituality that life is the encounter between us and God. The mission is to strengthen our faith in the word of God; enjoy fellowship with each other and share our experiences.

Annual overnight retreats are organized mostly, during lent at various retreat locations in California. In its mission of spiritual education, the retreat is guided by a spiritual advisor. The committee members prayerfully choose an appropriate Biblical theme every year to promote traditional Christian teachings of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The outings commence with the Divine Liturgy and numerous clergy from various Diocesan parishes as well as Diocesan staff participate in bilingual lectures followed by a question/answer time.

The proceeds from the annual retreat are allocated to different missions of the Western Diocese as well as Diocesan operational costs.

2025 retreat took place on April 13-14 where over 80 devout believers traveled to the serene hilltop Serra Retreat Center in Malibu. The theme of the overnight retreat was: **LIVING BY FAITH; NOT BY FEAR.**

The first morning opened the Divine Liturgy by celebrant Fr. Nzdeh Keshishyan with the participation of His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, and Fr. Haroutioun Tachejian, Spiritual Advisor of the Retreat Committee. The warm welcoming words of His Eminence, set the pace for an uplifting, soul-searching experience in the life of the devout retreaters.

After the lunch break, Chairlady Mrs. Lena Simonian welcomed the retreaters and introduced the lecturers. The speakers, Masis Zoboyan, Diran Avakyan, Fr. Krikor Zakarian and Fr. Haroutioun Tachejian focused on faith, trust, confidence and calm mindedness. In the evening, the faithful participated in the **PROCESSION OF THE CROSS** with hymns and scripture-reading at different stations. The night ended after an hour of vesper service prayers and meditation in the chapel followed by a relaxing movie.

The next morning, the faithful gathered outside at the foot of the dominating cross of Christ for the Arevacal (Sunrise) service.

The retreat ended with reflections of gratitude. The audience parted after reciting the Lord's prayer.

ZVARTNOTS CULTURAL COMMITTEE REPORT

2025

For centuries, in the absence of the Armenian Statehood, the Armenian Church became the stronghold for the preservation and enrichment of the unique character of the Armenian Culture.

To continue the same tradition, “ZVARTNOTS” Cultural committee was established in July of 2011, under the auspices of H. E. Abp. Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. The primary mission of the committee is “to preserve and promote the Armenian language, identity and heritage in the Diaspora, through cultural and educational programs”.

The following events were held in the Hampar Room of the Western Diocese:

March 20, 2025: A lecture presentation honoring the 90th birthday of a famous writer, Mr. Aram Sepetjian. Lecture participants were the following: Deacon Hovhaness Kumruyan, Mrs. Lilit Keheyan, Mrs. Maral Vosgian and the honoree’s son Mr. Hartch Sepetjian. They represented his biography, and his works. The cultural program included two piano pieces by Miss Nanor Der Bedrosian and songs by Misses Alexandra and Lilia Yaralians followed by two musical presentations on “kanon” an Armenian musical instrument.

June 5, 2025: A special evening of Sacred music and reflection on the Divine Liturgy. This was a spiritually enriching evening dedicated to the beauty, meaning, and depth of the Divine Liturgy. The keynote presenter was Rev. Fr. Khajak Shahbazyan, Parish Priest of St. Leon Armenian Cathedral. Fr. Khajak provided a step-by-step reflection on the structure and spiritual richness of the Divine Liturgy. His insights offered a meaningful glimpse into the sacred traditions and theological beauty of the Liturgy. Musical accompaniment was provided by the Shnorhali Choir of the St. Leon Cathedral, who performed a selection of Sharagans-cherished Armenian hymns that are integral to the Divine Liturgy.

August 7, 2025: Yerevan Nights event, under the stars, outdoors at the Western Diocese. The main entertainment of the event was DJ Chris who entertained the audience with nice Armenian music on the theme of Yerevan. Mrs. Nune Avedissyan talked about the history of Ghapama, an Armenian dish, and its different versions.

November 20, 25: A commemorative evening dedicated to Komitas Vartabed. The main speaker of the day was Reverend Father Yereima Abgarian. Hayr Sourp captivated the audience with his unique voice and very interesting style. He touched upon the biography of Komitas and talked about him as the Armenian composer, singer, choirmaster, poet, pedagogue, lecturer, and one of the founding members of the first international musical society, and the prelate of all Armenian Song. In the artistic segment, master violinist Sakak Gabatetyan performed Komitas “Krunk”, “Kakavik”, and “Kele kele”. Then the versatile artist, musician, and pianist Vatche Mangrian presented the audience with a bouquet of Komitas’s music on the piano, with his own arrangements.

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Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name:

The Ladies Guild of the Western Diocese

Committee Chair:

Araxie Boyamian

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

2

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

470

Annual Income (2025):

Annual Expense (2025):

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

Number of Committee Members:

14

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

Since 2011 the Ladies Guild Christmas Boutique & Champagne Brunch is a cherished tradition at the Western Diocese to celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to share Christmas Blessings, God's love for humanity, Joy found in believing Jesus, and peace as a source of strength to unity and stability. Also to express our genuine gratitude to distinguished ladies for their dedication and servitude to their respective organizations and to the Armenian Apostolic Church. For the past 15 years the Ladies Guild "Summer Night" at the Turpanjian Plaza is a unique fund raiser where Armenian artists are honored for their impact on the Armenian music in Armenia and Diaspora.

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

Since its inception in 2010, The Ladies Guild strongly encourages and continues to support the mission of the Stewardship Program(\$40,000 in 2025) with substantial donation and became lifetime benefactor. Also since 2014 the Ladies Guild has been supporting The Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund (\$5000 in 2025) so that each child and every Armenian student is entitled to an Armenian education with in Armenian school. We are very much happy that our expectation surpassed in 2025 with the financial contribution to Yerevan State University (\$10,000 in 2025) and (\$5000 in 2025) to the needy families in Armenia.

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

The Ladies Guild will maintain and preserve the values of the Armenian Apostolic church by promoting involvement in existing and new Diocesan programs to the community, by fostering the triumph of numerous God pleasing humanitarian missions.

Upcoming 2026 events:

15th Annual Summer Night at the Turpanjian Plaza on Thursday August 20, 2026

15th Annual Christmas Boutique & Champagne Brunch on Thursday December 3, 2026

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?

The Ladies Guild of the Western Diocese will continue to perpetuate the traditions, raising funds and spearheading initiatives for increasing community involvement by promoting unity.



Armenian
Church

ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Name:

Feast of Ascension Committee

Committee Chair:

Araxie Boyamian & Heidi Kavoulgian

Number of Events/Activities in 2025:

1

of Participants/Beneficiaries in 2025 Activities:

243

Annual Income (2025):

\$ 47,994.00

Annual Expense (2025):

\$ 16,860.00

Total Financial Contribution to WD Ministries (2025):

\$ 40,000.00

Number of Committee Members:

11

In what specific ways did your committee's activities in 2025 promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

For the past 21 years The Feast of Ascension Committee of the Western Diocese continues to value the mission of the Armenian Church, to reawaken the Christian faith in the life of the faithful, and to celebrate the significance of the Feast of Ascension, emphasizing on the religious and traditional aspect of the Armenian identity.

What are some of the measurable goals you have achieved in 2025?

Through the past 21 years proceeds of the events are allocated to Diocesan programs namely, Stewardship program (25,000 in 2025) and Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Scholarship Fund (\$5000 in 2025). We are very much happy and delighted that our expectation surpassed in 2025 with the additional financial contribution to Yerevan State University(\$10,000 in 2025) in Armenia.

What are your plans for 2026 to promote the Christian mission, vision, and values of the Diocese?

The Feast of Ascension Committee looks forward to celebrating the 21 Anniversary celebration on Thursday May 14, 2026 at the Diocesan headquarters: Divine Liturgy at St. Leon Armenian Cathedral and luncheon at the Nazareth & Sima Kalaydjian Hall of the Western Diocese. On this occasion words of appreciation certificates will be presenting by the Primate to distinguished ladies for their years of dedication and servitude to their respective parishes and organizations.

What are the areas of improvement that would help your committee expand its impact?

The Hampartzum Committee takes pride in organizing this event, a tradition initiated over 21 years by our beloved Primate. The Committee will continue to engage as many people as possible in our community and through traditions and culture will pass on the proceeds to diocesan programs and also bring together a better understanding of our spiritual search for the truth. The happy occasion provides an opportunity to install in our hearts the knowledge of the Bible as it leaves a spiritual impact on the daily life of the faithful.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Financial Report



**Western Diocese of the Armenian Church
PROPOSED BUDGET**

	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE	CURRENT	PROPOSED
	2025	2025	2025	2026	2027
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
501 · Hall Rental	199,545.34	197,334.06	-2,211.28	202,218.00	208,284.54
502 · Parish Dues	390,331.14	372,897.44	-17,433.70	390,000.00	390,000.00
503 · W.D.E.F. Earnings Distribution	1,271,985.91	1,253,366.45	-18,619.46	1,253,366.45	1,290,967.44
506 · General Contributions	125,199.41	5,379,091.26	5,253,891.85	130,199.55	134,105.54
506.6 · Zorayan Museum	0.00	1,987.17	1,987.17	0.00	0.00
507 · Calendar	5,038.00	3,813.60	-1,224.40	4,518.00	4,653.54
508 · Christian Education	0.00	-1,085.69	-1,085.69	0.00	0.00
509 · Interest and Dividends	110,750.62	240,776.64	130,026.02	217,553.88	224,080.50
514 · Books and Other Publications	48,244.87	-42,437.01	-90,681.88	45,147.27	46,501.69
515 · Bookstore-	20.00	0.00	-20.00	0.00	0.00
520 · Mission and Development	103,693.40	-252,474.52	-356,167.92	105,149.60	108,304.09
523 · Cathedral	660,214.95	792,700.00	132,485.05	792,700.00	816,481.00
600 · Events and Activities	25,053.29	-31,954.63	-57,007.92	25,533.31	26,299.31
680 · Candles	233,421.65	257,753.76	24,332.11	260,118.18	267,921.73
Total Income	3,173,498.58	8,171,768.53	4,998,269.95	3,426,504.24	3,517,599.37
Gross Profit	3,173,498.58	8,171,768.53	4,998,269.95	3,426,504.24	3,517,599.37
Expense					
1000 · Cathedral Expenses	35,724.84	36,389.11	664.27	36,389.11	37,480.78
6180 · Insurance	0.00	-2,811.08	-2,811.08	0.00	0.00
720 · Youth Ministries	0.00	116,703.84	116,703.84	116,703.84	120,204.96
740 · Diocesan Staff	1,395,721.44	1,364,041.64	-31,679.80	1,407,721.47	1,449,953.11
760 · Diocesan Office Expenses	158,473.06	348,014.89	189,541.83	165,758.14	170,730.88
780 · Diocesan Headquarters	256,548.32	213,521.04	-43,027.28	258,147.39	265,891.81
900 · Diocesan Expenses	249,054.18	456,231.40	207,177.22	299,178.66	308,154.02
Total Expense	2,095,521.84	2,532,090.84	436,569.00	2,283,898.61	2,352,415.57
Net Ordinary Income	1,077,976.74	5,639,677.69	4,561,700.95	1,142,605.63	1,165,183.80
Net Income	1,077,976.74	5,639,677.69	4,561,700.95	1,142,605.63	1,165,183.80

WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

DRAFT

01/22/26

Cash Basis

	Dec 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
109.7 · Golden CANDLES 9749	15,004.06
109.8 · Golden RECLAIM 9756	2,513.87
109.9 · Golden DONATIONS 9764	1,066,326.82
109.10 · Golden TRANSFERS 9772	887,634.82
109.11 · Golden PETTY CASH 9798	896.04
109.12 · Golden GLENDALE CAMPUS 0085	3,104.08
109.13 · Golden GLENDALE SCHOOL BLD 0366	172,733.75
109.14 · Golden DBA ARMENIAN APOSTO 0515	247,026.28
109.16 · Golden 6 month CD 0904	555,907.66
109.17 · Golden EPOSTLE 1703	74,336.79
109.18 · Golden Dio/Glen 6 month CD 5947	5,032,914.35
109.19 · Golden Dio/Glen 5762	1,002,093.21
115 · Pacific Premier Bank 4961	357,633.04
118 · Petty Cash - Account	25,998.13
118.1 · Petty Cash-Margossian	76,730.00
Total Checking/Savings	9,520,852.90
Accounts Receivable	
139.5 · Hall Rental Income Receivable	7,449.00
139.1 · Accounts Receivable Others	
139.20 · Candles	0.25
139.1 · Accounts Receivable Others - Other	199,252.73
Total 139.1 · Accounts Receivable Others	199,252.98
130 · A/R - St. Leon Cathedral Parish	-0.19
1251 · Pledges Receivable	500,000.00
120 · Accounts Receivable-Parish Dues	-10,543.98
140 · Notes Rec. St. John	2,800,878.00
141 · Notes Rec. HOLY RESURRECTION	560,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	4,057,035.81
Other Current Assets	
1252.0 · Discount on Pledges Receivable.	-13,552.00
151.1 · Non-Kaiser Prepaid Insurance	23,705.00
2001 · CATHEDRAL Prepaid Expenses	3,060.00
2000 · Cathedral Prepaid Insurance	-35,100.00
160 · Candle Inventory	267,172.00
155 · Candles Prepaid (In Mfg)	645,830.96
151 · Prepaid Insurance	231,725.34
139 · Accounts Receivable - WDEF	0.25
111 · Insurance Clearing Account	3,708.18
110 · Transfer Clearing Account	-508,567.16
Total Other Current Assets	617,982.57
Total Current Assets	14,195,871.28
Fixed Assets	
1310 · Glendale Campus Furniture	52,400.00
251.1 · CIP-Glendale Campus	12,210,329.00
Total Fixed Assets	12,262,729.00
Other Assets	
1651 · Accumulated Amortization-ROU	-7,816.00
1650 · Right-of-use assets	23,360.00
Total Other Assets	15,544.00
TOTAL ASSETS	26,474,144.28

WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2025

DRAFT

01/22/26

Cash Basis

Dec 31, 25

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

311 · Operating lease liabilities, ST	8,016.00
411.1 · GSB - Glendale Campus (current)	518,749.00
405.1 · SBA EIDL Loan - current	3,728.00

299 · Pass through

299.10 · Holy Sepulcher Fund	9,682.00
299.11 · Holy Etchmiadzin	-148,677.34
299.12 · Mer Hoos	-59,245.20
299.13 · Lebanon Fund	2,739.27
299.14 · Armenia/Artsakh Fund	423,893.78
299.15 · Diocese of Gougarak	-2,990.00
299.16 · Armenia Middle School Renovatio	500,000.00
299.17 · Clergy Support in Armenia	87,727.87
299.18 · Humanitarian Aid	0.01
299.19 · Harijavank	10,040.00
299.20 · Armenian Soldiers Fund	0.01
299.21 · Tavoush	12,190.00
299.22 · Arev Children Center	44,885.08
299.23 · Diocese of Artik	10,050.00
299.24 · Margossian Trust	652,338.80
299.25 · Friends of YSU	-45,000.00
299.26 · North Hollywood Parish	3,209.45
299.27 · World Vision	-2,000.00
299.28 · LA Fire Relief	12,433.41
299.30 · In Memory of Gerald Turpanjian	29,001.61
299.31 · Patriarch Sahag II	0.73
299.32 · Banner - A Way of Life	300.00
299.33 · Texas Flood Relief	4,600.00
299.34 · Endowment Fund	4,125.00
299.35 · Fr. Hetoom	2,300.00
299.36 · Las Vegas Daycare	-272,022.19

Total 299 · Pass through	1,279,582.29
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300 · Accounts Payable - Other

300.14 · Cathedral Fund	570.42
300.16 · Stewardship Fund	-17,903.52
300.23 · Summer Camp	2,473.25
300.29 · CYMA (General)	266.35
300.56 · Acc. Pay ACYO (General)	-1,795.35
300.71 · Accounts Payable - MISC. FUND	
300.712 · Mer Hoos (General)	-0.22

Total 300.71 · Accounts Payable - MISC. FUND	-0.22
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300.75 · Appeal for Support Fund (Trans)	0.06
300.76 · Lebanon Fund (Donation)	-0.27
300.84 · St. John Garabet (Hollywood)	-24,700.00
300.87 · Deacon Council	-0.07
300.89 · Charish A Parish	-260.00
300.90 · Clergy Support In Armenia	0.15
300.95 · Tavoush	-80.00
300.98 · Epostle	-22,293.21
301.01 · Glendale Campus	-1,302,199.10
301.03 · Scottsdale Property	0.50
301.06 · Earthquake Relief	-2,030.27
301.07 · Glendale School	153,267.75
301.08 · Armenian Apostolic Church	-376,729.52
301.09 · Appeal 2023	300.00
301.10 · Holy Apostles-Tujunga	-125,000.00
380.81 · WDEF Interest (2.95m)	341,841.00

Total 300 · Accounts Payable - Other	-1,374,272.05
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WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

01/22/26

Balance Sheet

Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2025

DRAFT

	Dec 31, 25
301 · Holy Sepulcher fund (General)	-0.43
308 · Cath Sacrament Reser (Donation)	-25.00
310 · Due to / from Trusts	-81,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	354,777.81
Total Current Liabilities	354,777.81
Long Term Liabilities	
312 · Operating lease liabilities, LT	7,528.00
299.3 · DIC - Accumulated	429.00
412 · Notes Payable - WDEF 2.0M	2,000,000.00
411 · GSB - Glendale Campus	6,081,251.00
414 · Incarnation Church Loan	3,500,000.00
130.2 · Debt Issuance Cost	-10,300.00
407 · Notes Payable - WDEF First Loan	500,000.00
402 · NOTES PAYABLE-WDEF 2.95	2,950,000.00
404 · NOTES PAYABLE -WDEF	500,000.00
405 · SBA EIDL Loan	119,061.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	15,647,969.00
Total Liabilities	16,002,746.81
Equity	
452 · Pass Through Offset	-233,890.00
455 · Fund Transfers	409,743.00
470 · Net Assets	3,561,952.50
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	863,722.73
Net Income	5,869,869.24
Total Equity	10,471,397.47
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	26,474,144.28

WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Profit & Loss

01/22/26

January through December 2025

DRAFT

Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
501 · Hall Rental	
501.1 · Hall Rental Income	239,334.06
501.3 · Allocated Utilities	-42,000.00
Total 501 · Hall Rental	197,334.06
502 · Parish Dues	393,693.99
503 · W.D.E.F. Earnings Distribution	1,253,366.45
506 · General Contributions	5,455,191.26
506.6 · Zorayan Museum	1,987.17
507 · Calendar	3,813.60
508 · Christian Education	-1,085.69
509 · Interest and Dividends	240,776.64
514 · Books and Other Publications	
514.1 · Books-Other Publication Income	17,081.69
514.2 · Expenses, Books & Other Pub	-59,268.70
Total 514 · Books and Other Publications	-42,187.01
520 · Mission and Development	
520.1 · Clergy Education Contributions	-2,500.00
520.7 · Candidates' Stipends	-228,770.40
520.8 · Candidates' Health Insurance	-21,204.12
Total 520 · Mission and Development	-252,474.52
523 · Cathedral Sacrament	
523.1 · Cathedral Sacrament Income	807,800.00
523.2 · Cathedral Sacraments Expenses	-15,100.00
Total 523 · Cathedral Sacrament	792,700.00
600 · Events and Activities	
687 · Ladies Society	0.00
636 · Hampartzum	29.00
665 · Christmas Boutique	130.00
666 · Ladies Guild	-1,465.00
667 · Ladies Retreat	1,255.00
670 · Zvartnots	1,523.89
679 · Christmas Ball	29,148.63
681 · Assembly	300.00
682 · Impact Mailings	4,320.00
684 · 125th Anniversary	-73,750.00
686 · Summer Nights	1,933.85
Total 600 · Events and Activities	-36,574.63
680 · Candles	257,753.76
Total Income	8,264,295.08
Gross Profit	8,264,295.08
Expense	
1000 · CATHEDRAL EXPENSES	
1000.1 · Cathedral Expense Contribution	-207,979.00
1001 · Cathedral Gardening	9,500.00
1002 · Cathedral Utilities	
1002.1 · Cath. Water & Power	54,213.02
1002.2 · Cath. Gas	7,267.31
Total 1002 · Cathedral Utilities	61,480.33
1004 · Cathedral Property Insurance	20,682.35
1007 · Cathedral Security	65,585.00

WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Profit & Loss

01/22/26

January through December 2025

DRAFT

Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 25
1009 · Cathedral Payroll	
1009.2 · Cath. Administrative Staff	316,963.71
1009.1 · Cath. Parish Priest	74,425.92
1009 · Cathedral Payroll - Other	-451,350.00
Total 1009 · Cathedral Payroll	-59,960.37
1014 · Cathedral Health Insurance	-9,733.20
Total 1000 · CATHEDRAL EXPENSES	-120,424.89
6180 · INSURANCE	
6181 · Health Insurance	-21,904.92
6182 · Worker's Compensation	8,185.00
Total 6180 · INSURANCE	-13,719.92
700 · PRIMATE	
703 · Health Insurance	11,424.84
Total 700 · PRIMATE	11,424.84
720 · YOUTH MINISTRIES	
721 · Youth Ministry Stipend	116,703.84
Total 720 · YOUTH MINISTRIES	116,703.84
740 · DIOCESAN STAFF	
744.1 · Administrative Salaries	1,137,036.24
744.5 · Camp Salaries	-1,627.46
745 · Administrative Bonus	46,250.00
747 · Payroll Taxes	
747.1 · Payroll Taxes WD	-399,691.66
747.2 · Payroll Taxes Candidates	-2,502.00
747.3 · Payroll Taxes Camp Employees	-28,098.05
747.4 · Payroll Taxes Cathedral Employee	-59,007.11
747 · Payroll Taxes - Other	589,878.76
Total 747 · Payroll Taxes	100,579.94
748 · Insurance - Employee	87,129.72
748.1 · Insurance - Employee Contributi	-5,326.80
Total 740 · DIOCESAN STAFF	1,364,041.64
760 · DIOCESAN OFFICE EXPENSE	
761 · Printing	3,431.00
762 · Postage and Delivery	3,394.66
763 · Office Expense	284,732.69
769 · Telephone Expense	17,825.20
770 · Computer Expenses	21,900.11
771 · Internet Expenses	15,600.00
776 · Merchant Fee	1,397.23
Total 760 · DIOCESAN OFFICE EXPENSE	348,280.89
780 · DIOCESAN HEADQUARTERS	
781 · Security	24,000.00
783 · Cleaning and Maintenance	36,084.23
784 · Utilities	9,463.31
787 · Insurance - property/liability	116,604.35
788 · Repairs and Maintenance	43,139.62
789 · Property Taxes	2,596.53
Total 780 · DIOCESAN HEADQUARTERS	231,888.04

WESTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

Profit & Loss

01/22/26

January through December 2025

DRAFT

Cash Basis

	Jan - Dec 25
800 · DIOCESAN VEHICLES	
801 · Repairs and Maintenance	1,183.98
802 · Gas Allowance	2,450.68
804 · DMV and other fees	1,387.45
805 · Lease and Other Car Payment	6,671.37
806 · Insurance	5,155.52
Total 800 · DIOCESAN VEHICLES	16,849.00
900 · DIOCESAN EXPENSES	
904 · Primate travel and other exp.	40,588.60
910 · Charity Contributions	2,500.00
917 · Professional Fees	350,293.84
920 · Armenian Church TV Program	36,000.00
921 · Reimbursement	9,999.96
Total 900 · DIOCESAN EXPENSES	439,382.40
Total Expense	2,394,425.84
Net Ordinary Income	5,869,869.24
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
80000 · Ask My Accountant	0.00
Total Other Expense	0.00
Net Other Income	0.00
Net Income	5,869,869.24

FINANCIAL REPORT

WD Endowment Fund



Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2024, March 31, 2025, June 30, 2025, September 30, 2025 and December 31, 2025

	Dec 31, 24	Mar 31, 25	Jun 30, 25	Sep 30, 25	Dec 31, 25	
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Other Current Assets						
12000 · Undeposited Funds	-	-	-	-	5,000	0.01%
200 · Goldman Sachs Brokerage						
200.1 · Cash	327,602	1,037,518	3,476	139,167	95,690	
200.4 · Accrued Interest	35	113	0	12	8	
	327,637	1,037,631	3,477	139,178	95,697	0.12%
202 · GS Institutional Advisory						
202.1 · Cash	128,058	172,692	121,442	148,258	158,780	
202.2 · Securities at cost	40,011,054	39,659,265	42,721,345	42,886,801	43,657,398	
202.3 · Unrealized gains and (losses)	7,028,976	6,024,129	10,588,732	13,938,218	13,999,333	
202.4 · Accrued Interest	14	19	10	12	13	
	47,168,102	45,856,105	53,431,529	56,973,289	57,815,524	70.24%
204 · GS Government/Corporate Fixed						
204.1 · Cash	466,855	422,885	326,482	310,425	397,129	
204.2 · Securities at cost	16,293,070	17,503,107	18,070,904	18,524,957	19,972,949	
204.3 · Unrealized gains and (losses)	(238,663)	(304)	398,305	512,670	588,252	
204.4 · Accrued Interest	129,670	115,371	145,088	117,069	168,145	
	16,650,931	18,041,060	18,940,779	19,465,120	21,126,475	25.67%
206 · GS Bonds						
206.1 · Cash	2	111	1	-	10	
206.2 · Securities at cost	754,924	696,073	628,110	539,204	438,538	
206.3 · Unrealized gains and (losses)	(56,714)	(69,893)	(38,549)	(10,365)	(28,018)	
206.4 · Accrued Interest	1,320	638	672	467	1,030	
	699,532	626,928	590,234	529,306	411,561	0.50%
299 · Self Managed Assets						
Fixed Income						
299.1 · Note Rec. WD Due 06-30-25	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	-	
299.2 · Note Rec. WD Due 12-31-26	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	-	
299.8 · Note Receivable, WD (Glendale)	2,000,000	2,000,000	169,151	-	-	
299.3 · Accrued Interest	181,841	199,341	40,270	-	-	
299.6 · Note Receivable Western Diocese	2,950,000	2,950,000	582,769	-	-	
299.7 · Accrued Interest WD (Hollywood)	536,000	565,500	3,156	-	-	
299.10 · Loan Receivable - St. Mary	2,000,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000	750,000	
209.11 · Accrued Interest Rec. St. Mary	8,611	8,236	-	-	-	
299.12 · Loan Receivable St. Sarkis	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	
209.13 · Accrued Interest Rec. St. Sarkis	3,358	3,358	3,250	3,250	3,358	
209.14 · Note Rec. WD Due 8-21-2030 2%	-	-	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	
	9,279,811	8,626,436	3,698,596	3,403,250	2,853,358	3.47%
TOTAL ASSETS	74,126,012	74,188,159	76,664,615	80,510,144	82,307,616	100.00%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Other Current Liabilities						
300 · Distributions payable	2,665,461	2,656,010	2,385	-	2,873,954	
301 · Accounts payable, other	-	-	-	-	1,528	
302 · Distributions payable-prior yr.	11,026	18,448	18,448	18,448	18,448	
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,676,487	2,674,458	20,834	18,448	2,893,930	
Equity						
440 · Total Contributions	51,976,422	52,146,208	52,198,034	52,240,176	52,283,176	
450 · Retained Earnings	12,451,779	12,481,924	12,768,598	13,077,233	12,438,317	
460 · Unrealized gains (losses)	7,021,325	6,885,569	11,677,149	15,174,287	14,692,192	
Total Equity	71,449,526	71,513,701	76,643,781	80,491,696	79,413,686	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	74,126,012	74,188,159	76,664,615	80,510,144	82,307,616	

Western Diocese Endowment Fund
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
 January through December 2025

PRIOR YEAR

CURRENT YEAR JANUARY THRU DECEMBER, 2025

	Jan - Dec 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
501 · Dividends	1,055,855
502 · Interest	792,207
504 · Net appreciation (decline) FMV	4,839,847
510 · Miscellaneous Income	-
540 · Capital gains and (losses)	540,930
545 · Capital Gain Distributions	244,236
910 · Other Income	5,567
Total Income	7,478,642
Expense	
750 · Investment management fees	154,158
756 · Foreign Tax Paid	-
800 · Other fees	-
810 · Professional Fees	10,000
825 · Audit Fee	15,225
830 · Postage	-
840 · Printing	-
845 · Interest Expense	-
855 · Insurance	4,452
865 · Fundraising	-
Total Expense	183,835
Net Ordinary Income	7,294,807
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
950 · Transfer of Cash	-
999 · Contributions	
Ghookasian Derik	-
Asbed&Elina Hamamjian(HD SchFd)	-
Gerald&LuizaVartanian(HD SchFd)	-
Anthony&PateelLoffredo(HDSchFd)	-
Nareg&Anush Kasian(HD SchFd)	-
Jack&Lucy Zakaryan(HD SchFd)	-
Nareg&Raquel Babayans(SchFd)	-
Haig&Marine Nazarian(HD SchFd)	-
PaulSatamyanJrMemFd(HD SchFd)	-
Arshagouhi Tavitian (DioAdmin)	-
ArmenianApostolicChurchofOregon	-
St. Leon Armenian Cathedral	-
Sarkis & Silva Katchiguian Fund	-
Gerard & Nellie Baydian Fund	-
Ruby Geragos Camp Fund	-
DrChris A Atamian Memorial Fund	-
St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic	-
St. Gregory Hampar Fund	-
Parker Community Funds for Kids	500
Diramerian Family Fund (CampB)	5,063
Sound of Children (DiocesAdmin)	10,000
A.C.Y.O Central Council	-
Adishian, John (Reedley)	14
Cultural Committee Fund (Cuper)	-
Dickranian Foundation (Camp)	10,000
Ghookasian,Derik &Adrineh(Stew)	5,000
Goldman Sachs (Diocese)	1,500
Hachigian, Paul & Rose Stewards	-
Harry Demirgian Memorial Schola	65,209
Horigian Memorial (Orphans)	775
Horigian, Dick and Mary (S.F.)	309
Kandarian, Mark & Rose M (S.F.)	371

	Jan - Mar 25	Apr - Jun 25	Jul - Sep 25	Oct - Dec 25	Jan - Dec 25
	137,109	158,774	166,171	630,844	1,092,898
	211,284	186,752	158,590	223,547	780,172
	(135,756)	4,791,580	3,497,138	(482,095)	7,670,867
	-	-	-	-	-
	(274,571)	62,552	37,391	962,959	788,331
	-	-	-	472,609	472,609
	717	1,716	423	198	3,054
	(61,218)	5,201,374	3,859,715	1,808,062	10,807,932
	39,318	38,412	39,878	45,118	162,726
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
	5,075	5,075	10,310	-	20,460
	-	-	1,754	-	1,754
	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
	-	60	-	-	60
	-	4,573	-	-	4,573
	-	75,000	-	-	75,000
	44,393	123,120	53,942	55,118	276,572
	(105,611)	5,078,254	3,805,773	1,752,944	10,531,360
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
	-	-	-	2,000	2,000
	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
	-	-	11,000	-	11,000
	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
	14,107	-	-	-	14,107
	3,650	-	-	-	3,650
	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
	-	-	-	16,000	16,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	5,167	-	5,167
	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
	14	-	-	-	14
	-	1,410	-	-	1,410
	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	776	-	-	-	776
	309	-	-	-	309
	371	-	-	-	371

Western Diocese Endowment Fund
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
 January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 24
Kirk Hachigian Stewardship	20,000
Ladies Society Fund (Cupertino)	-
Ouzounian, George and Shirley	538
Parseghian, Hagop (scholarship)	-
Social Club Fund	-
Sonia Akian Memorial Fund	32,075
St. Andrew Cultural Org.	1,150
St. Andrew Abaci Peter&Pamela	250
St. Andrew Cupertino	5,391
St. Andrew Ladies Society Fund	988
St. Leon Cathedral Endowment	10,000
St. Leon Little Angels School	15,000
Tamar Chavdarian (CYMA)	600
Vahram Biricik Memorial	500
Total 999 · Contributions	185,234
Other Expense	
900 · Income payable to beneficiaries	(2,665,461)
Net Income	4,814,580

	Jan - Mar 25	Apr - Jun 25	Jul - Sep 25	Oct - Dec 25	Jan - Dec 25
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	923	-	-	923
558	-	-	-	-	558
-	-	1,200	-	-	1,200
-	-	293	-	-	293
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	5,975	-	5,975
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	500	500
169,786	51,826	42,142	43,000	306,754	
-	-	-	(2,873,954)	(2,873,954)	
64,175	5,130,080	3,847,915	(1,078,010)	7,964,160	

Western Diocese Endowment Fund
Summary of Performance by Manager
For the year ended December 31, 2025

	Income	Net Change in Value	Capital Gains (Losses)	Expenses	Contributions	Distribution	Net
Goldman Sachs Brokerage	\$ 14,973	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (60)			\$ 14,913
Goldman Sachs Institutional	1,597,138	6,879,387	840,765	(127,387)			9,189,902
Goldman Sachs Fixed Income	519,822	805,304	(52,445)	(35,338)			1,237,344
Goldman Sacchs Bonds	5,493	(13,824)	11	-			(8,320)
Self Managed Assets	211,308	-	-	(113,787)	306,754	(2,873,954)	(2,469,679)
	\$ 2,348,733	\$ 7,670,867	\$ 788,331	\$ (276,572)	\$ 306,754	\$ (2,873,954)	\$ 7,964,160

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Blanca Salazar, Cathedral Caretaker

WD COMMITTEES

House of Hope - Mer Hooy
Jr. Godfathers
Abp. H. Derderian Scholarship Fund
Summer Camp Committee
Camp Board of Directors
Zorayan Museum
Cathedral Board of Directors
Cathedral Executive Committee
Cathedral Ladies Guild
CYMA
Khachadourian Choir
Shnorhali Choir
Endowment Fund Board of Directors
Construction Committee
Christian Education Council
Little Angels Saturday School
Zvartnots Cultural Committee
Stewardship
Clergy Executive/Conference
Armenia Projects
Liturgical Committee
Ladies Auxiliary
Ladies Society Central Council
Retreat Committee
ECF
AACCWD
Protocol & Government Relations
Christmas Ball
Deacons Council
Saturday Schools Executive Committee
ACYO
Nerouj