

Armenian Apostolic Church of Oregon
P.O. Box 219245
Portland, OR 97225

Approximately 30 years ago the Armenian community in Oregon began to organize. Today, we have about 300 Armenian families that reside in Oregon and SW Washington.

In May of 2004 the community officially joined the Western Diocese of North America. Since our affiliation with the Diocese, regular services have been held at St. Ignatius Syrian Church 4514 SW Flavel Dr. Portland, Oregon 97206. Our first official visiting priest was Fr. Yeghia Isayan followed by Fr. Zareh Mansuryan. Fr. Mansuryan became our full time Priest in October of 2007. He was assigned to our Parish by his Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese.

In 2005 His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian formed a building committee and appointing the following;

Rita Parseghian, Member Church Council
Avedis Nor-Ashkarian, Member, Church Council.
Albert Keuftedjian, President ACO

Fr. Zareh's became the President of the Building Committee after his appointment to our Parish. Under his guidance we continued to search for appropriate properties. During that time the Building Committee presented several possible locations.

On April 27, 2008, at the request of our Parish Priest Fr. Zareh Mansuryan and the Building Committee, a special general meeting was held to discuss and evaluate the purchase of a Church at 9215 SE Church St., Clackamas, OR 97206.

The purchase of this building was voted on by an overwhelming majority of the dues paying members. A decision was made to purchase the building, with the approval of our Primate Hovnan Derderian, the Chairman of the Diocesan Council Esq., Joseph Kanimian and the Diocesan Council.

On August 6th 2008 the escrow papers were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Deacon Kevork Parseghian and Secretary, Varoujan Gazarian.

For the past 20 years this church building has served the American Community as the Christian Life Church. The church was built in 1886 and recognized and registered as a Historic Building in Clackamas County. The 2 story building is 4200 sq ft. The Chapel seats 175 worshippers. In addition there is a kitchen and fellowship hall downstairs, seating 75 parishioners comfortably. It also has 4 classrooms and 2 offices and working bell tower.

The purchase price of the building is \$359,900, well under the market value. The down payment including closing costs was \$133,841, leaving a loan balance of \$233,935 at a 7.25% interest rate.

This long awaited dream has been achieved with the participation of our dedicated community members. Our heartfelt thanks go to all who have sent and continue to send their contributions to this endeavor. Everyone's participation to the financial success of this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

It is with great joy that we announce the opening ceremony of our new church which will take place on August 24, 2008 at 11:00 am. The Church address is:

9215 SW Church St.
(1/2 block of 82nd Dr.)
Clackamas, OR 97015

On that day, by the arrangement of Primate Hovnan Derderian we will be visited by Vicar General, the Very Rev. Dajad V. Yardemian, who will represent the Primate. He will officiate the blessing of the "stone" which is considered a temporary altar.

We will also celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother-of-God and the blessing of the grapes, as is tradition in the Armenian Church.

The Ladies Auxiliary will host a reception following the Badarak Service. Food and refreshments will be served. We invite all community members to attend this momentous occasion.

Prayerfully,

Fr. Zareh Mansuryan, Parish Priest

Deacon Kevork Parseghian,
Chairman