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Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian Minister Emeritus

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From the Minister's Desk

Dear Members and Friends:

As you know by now, on Sunday, January 20 my tenure as your Interim Minister will come to an end. My almost seven-month ministry at ACCGD was a delightful, and hopefully, a fruitful one! I am pleased that the Pulpit Search Committee's efforts were successful. Pastor Shant Barsoumian has been voted on to be our next minister. He will assume the pastorate in mid-March 2013. When he officially begins his ministry in our midst, I urge our members and friends to remember the following:

1. **First. Do not overburden your new minister with too much favorable talk about his predecessors**, even if by some stretch of the imagination such might be justified. The new pastor should not feel that he must live in the shadow of those who have preceded him.
2. **Second. Do not expect him to do all things the same way as his predecessors did.** Times change and all men are different. Each minister has his own particular gifts and graces, his own methods and priorities to bring to the situation. Thus, no one should be expected to fit a predetermined mold.

3. **Third. You should go out of your way to help him know your name, your family, your situation**, and, as they arise - your needs. In all fairness, you should not expect him to be aware of any need which requires when his pastoral attentions, unless you tell him.
4. **Fourth. You should receive and acknowledge your new minister for what he is**, the key person in the parish who is specifically trained and experienced in the leadership and administration of a church.
5. **Fifth. You should support him by your interest, your enthusiasm, your willingness to serve**, and by your faithful attendance at church.
6. **Sixth. If you have any concerns, remarks and constructive criticism, don't tell the new minister, tell the newly appointed "Pastoral Relations Committee."** They will relay the message in an appropriate manner.

Thus, a new and wonderful opportunity will lie ahead as you take your new minister into your lives and into your hearts. Together you will advance Christ's Kingdom. Together you will see this church move "from strength to strength."

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian
Minister Emeritus

ACC Confirms Call of Pastor Shant Barsoumian as our Next Minister

It is my pleasure to announce that at a special meeting on January 13, 2013, the congregation of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit (ACC) voted to affirm the call of our next minister, Pastor Shant Barsoumian. The meeting was the culmination of a busy weekend at the ACC. On Saturday, we held an informal reception so that ACC members and friends could introduce themselves to Pastor Shant. Earlier in the day, a special pizza and salad lunch was held for our youth to spend time with Pastor Shant. Both events were well-attended. Then on Sunday, Pastor Shant was the guest preacher during the morning worship service. Needless to say, we are delighted with the outcome of this weekend, and we are excited to welcome Pastor Shant Barsoumian to our community.

This culminated a long process for our church. We formed a Pulpit Search Committee in November, 2011. This committee was composed of the following people: Rouben Arslanian, Ed Bayleran, Hourig Jacobs, Robert Kachadourian, Mark Kadian, Aram Kakousian, and chair of the committee, Rodney Keteyian. These people worked diligently to understand our church's needs, and to identify and evaluate possible pastoral candidates. We thank them for the time and effort they put into this important process as well as for the outstanding results.

We do not yet have an exact start date for Pastor Shant; however, we are hopeful that he will join us sometime in March. In our next monthly bulletin, we will have more information about this.

ACC Thanks Badveli Tootikian

The entire ACC community thanks our Minister Emeritus, Reverend Vahan H. Tootikian, for his inspiring service as our interim minister from July 1, 2012 – January 21, 2013. I will not even try to enumerate all of Badveli's contributions during this period. However, I must state that Badveli Tootikian has held our church community together, reaching out to new, current, and lapsed members as he helped to rejuvenate our church fellowship. Again, we give a hearty thank you to Badveli Tootikian.

–Rodney Keteyian, ACC Moderator

In The Month of February

In the month of February, we celebrate the following important events:

1. **St. Vartanatz Day**, which this year falls on February 7. We observe Vartanantz, however, on the preceding **Sunday, February 3rd**. **Vartanantz** derives its name from the hero of the war the Armenian waged in defense of their Christian faith in 451A.D: **General Vartan Mamigonian**. The climax of that heroic struggle was the Avarayr Battle, in which 1036 Armenians were martyred. The Armenian people continued their struggle for 33 years and forced the Persian government to recognize their freedom of conscience and religion.
2. **Lent**. The Lenten Season extends over a 46-day period, beginning with **Ash Wednesday, February 13** and ending on Easter Eve, **March 30th**. With six Sundays in the period, there are 40 days in Lent, which corresponds to and symbolizes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting, praying and meditating in the wilderness before he began his ministry. Lent, being synonymous with the meaning of spring, emphasizes spiritual reawakening, renewal and rebirth.
3. **Valentine's Day is on February 14**. It is a day of warmth, tenderness, kindness, and yes, **love**. It is a celebration of love and romance, a day to recognize that even in an age and society of unfulfilled dreams, loneliness, and alienation there is still **love**. But love is more than words or feelings, it is a matter of attitude and deeds.
4. **President Lincoln's Day on February 12 and President Washington Day on February 22**. In this month's sky these two great presidents come into brighter view. They are the stars of dramas of national struggles for human emancipation. They have in common certain qualities of character essential to the success of any struggle for human freedom. These qualities are: courage, faith, devotion to an ideal, perseverance, sacrifice, and conviction. Passion for right and righteousness and love of fellowmen with faith in God were the driving force which made these two men the brave leaders for our country.

May these observances provide us with spiritual inspiration during the month of February and always.

Book of Life

Dedication - On Sunday, December 30, 2012

1. **Camille Hourig**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Miguel and Seta Sanchez, born on January 27, 2006 at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI.
2. **Joseph Miguel**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Miguel and Seta Sanchez, born on January 27, 2008 at William Beaumont, Royal Oak, MI.

Entered his rest. Vincent Kaye, the oldest member of our church, on Wednesday, January 9, at the age of 104.

The viewing was held in our Sanctuary on Sunday, January 13, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The prayer service was at 7:00 p.m. The Knights of Vartan service at 7:30 p.m.

The funeral service took place on Monday, January 14 at 11:00 a.m. At 12:00 noon there was a memorial meal in our Fellowship Hall.

Vincent was a life-long member of our church since 1930s. He was the oldest alumnus of Lawrence Technological University. He was an inventor. He is survived by his only child, Anne Kaye Dirani, her husband, Dr. Khalil Dirani, and Vincent's only grandchild, Gena Rose. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Schedule for Worship Service January 27 to March 10, 2013

The following is the schedule of the Sunday Morning Worship Services that the lay leaders of our church will be taking part during the transition period, from January 27 to March 10, 2013.

1. Sunday, January 27, 2013

Worship leader: **Haig Arabian**. Armenian sermon: **Rouben Arslanian**. English sermon: **Dr. Richard Marburger**.

2. Vartanantz Sunday, February 3, 2013

Worship Leader, preacher in Armenian and English: **David Terzibashian**.

3. First Sunday of Lent, February 10, 2013

Worship leader and English message: **Robert Kachadourian**. Armenian message: **David Terzibashian**.

4. Second Sunday in Lent, Sunday, February 17, 2013

Worship leader: **Haig Arabian**. Armenian message: **Hourig Jacobs**. English message: **Rodney Keteyian**

5. Third Sunday in Lent, Sunday, February 24, 2013

Worship leader: **David Terzibashian**. English message: **Daniel Bayleran**. Armenian message: **Hourig Jacobs**.

6. Fourth Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 3, 2013

Worship leader: **David Terzibashian**. Armenian sermon: **David Terzibashian**. English sermon: **Carole Badmadjian**.

7. Fifth Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 10, 2013

Worship leader: **Bob Kachadourian**. Armenian sermon: **Rouben Arslanian**. English sermon: **Mark Kadian**.

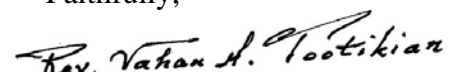
The participants are asked to send the Scripture text and their sermon topic to our church secretary as soon as possible.

Those who are going to deliver the Armenian sermon, should send the synopsis of your message, along with the Biblical text and sermon topic.

The liturgical part of each of the 7 services has been prepared and is available at the church office.

Once again, I want to thank all participants for their willingness to serve the church.

Faithfully,



Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian

**ACC Gratefully Acknowledges the Following
Donations Received after the Publication of the
January Bulletin**

Armenian Renaissance Association – Donation
Stephen and Susan Bolerjack - Christmas
Leo and Cathy Brito- Christmas
Ovsanna DerVartanian - Christmas
Daniel and Marian Flanagan - Christmas
Edward and Susan Haroutunian – Christmas
Robert and Gayaneh Kachadourian- AMAA
Dicranouhie Keshishian – Christmas
Rose Lahiff – Donation
Linda Peringian – Donation, in honor of her mother,
Clara Peringian and Rosette Tootikian.

Other Gifts Gratefully Received

Three separate gifts from Karen S. Lipski,
Samuel J. Churikian and Hannah M. Wider in
memory of their uncle Robert K. Gureghian.

A gift for the Armenian Christian Heritage
Program from Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Turpanjian of
TF Educational Foundation.

Donation from Dr. and Mrs. Basim and Leda
Asmar.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time begins on **Sunday,
March 10**. Don't forget to set your clocks forward
one hour.

Family Night

Friday, February 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Come enjoy delicious food, entertainment, fun
and games, All ages are welcome. Tickets are
\$12.00 for adults. \$7.00 for children and youth
between 7-17 years old. No charge for children
under 6 years of age.

**ACC Women's Fellowship Annual
Lenten Luncheon**

The A.C.C. Women's Fellowship is sponsoring
their annual Lenten Luncheon on **Friday, March
22 at 12:00 noon**. Admission is \$15 per person.
Come enjoy a beautiful program. Both men and
women are welcome. To RSVP please contact the
church office.

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