



**ST. HAGOP ARMENIAN CHURCH**  
Community of Tampa-St. Pete, Florida  
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September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Dear <<merge first name field>>>,

We extend our heartfelt greetings as we announce our 2026 annual stewardship campaign and invite you to participate in it. Please make note of the following schedule of events:

Date	Event
October 12	Stewardship Sermon 1
November 2	Parishioner Testimonial 1
November 16	Parishioner Testimonial 2
November 17	2026 Pledge Cards Mailed
November 23	Stewardship Sermon 2
November 27	Thanksgiving Day
November 30	Pledge Sunday
December 14	Parishioner Testimonial 3 (TBD)
December 21	Deadline to Return Pledge Cards

A decade ago, St. Hagop converted from a dues membership system to a pledge system for 3 reasons that continue to inspire this initiative.

First, and paramount, faith-based reasons have and continue to undergird our conversion. Holy Scripture and church teaching remind us repeatedly that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are called to apply the gifts and resources our Lord bestowed on us in a manner pleasing to Him. 1 Peter 4:10 provides instruction that reflects the foundation of the pledge system: *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

Second, fundamental to the pledge system is the concept of proportionate giving: God has provided us gifts of varied sorts with the charge of making the best use of them. The Bible parable of the poor widow making monetary gifts at or beyond the limit of her means and Jesus' declaration that her gifts – though modest in monetary value, far-exceeded those her more monetarily-advantaged brethren gave - captures the essence of proportionate giving.

In addition, Scripture speaks to the third, but certainly not the last or least, of reasons St. Hagop has committed to pledge membership: the inclusion of not only monetary gifts but offerings of our time and talent as well. *Each of you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7) and This stewardship that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God (2 Cor 9:12).*

Stewardship manifests in parishioner-specific ways, beyond monetary gifts and based in heartfelt expressions of return and gratitude for life devoted as an Armenian Christian, and sincere, no-strings-attached gifts – whatever they may be. Please visit St. Hagop's web site and/or contact us if you would like to further discuss stewardship and other church ministries. We sincerely welcome and thank you for your faith-inspired participation.

**Yours in faith,**

Michael Shahnasarian, Ph.D.  
Stewardship Chairman

Der Hovnan Demerjian  
Pastor, St. Hagop Armenian Church

