

2013-J420

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 95th Anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those sacred institutions whose historic significance has contributed to the culture and traditions of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene; and

WHEREAS, The Church of the Nazarene organization has been an expression of the holiness movement along with the emphasis on sanctified life; its founders came together to form one people by utilizing evangelism, compassionate ministries, and education; the Church went forth to become a people of many cultures and tongues; and

WHEREAS, The spiritual vision of early Nazarenes was derived from the doctrinal core of John Wesley's preaching; these affirmations include justification by grace through faith, sanctification as an inheritance available to every Christian, and the witness of the Spirit to God's work in human lives; and

WHEREAS, In October 1907, the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene merged in Chicago, Illinois, at the First General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, With the Pentecostal Church of Scotland and Pentecostal Mission unions in 1915, the Church of the Nazarene embraced seven previous denominations and parts of two other groups; the Nazarenes and the Wesleyan Church emerged as the two denominations that eventually drew together a majority of the holiness movement's independent strands; and

WHEREAS, In 1908, there were churches in Canada and organized work in India, Cape Verde, and Japan, soon followed by work in Africa, Mexico, and China; the 1915 mergers added congregations in the British Isles and work in Cuba, Central America, and South America; there were congregations in Syria and Palestine by 1922; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous holiness churches in Australia and Italy united in

the 1940s, others in Canada and Great Britain in the 1950s, and one in Nigeria in 1988; as the church grew culturally and linguistically diverse, it committed itself in 1980 to internationalization, a deliberate policy of being one church of congregations and districts worldwide, rather than being divided into national churches such as earlier Protestant denominations; and

WHEREAS, Today, over 60 percent of Nazarenes and 80 percent of the church's 425 districts are outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, An early system of colleges for the Church of the Nazarene in North America and the British Isles has become a global network of institutions with three graduate seminaries in North America, Central America, and the Asia-Pacific region; there are 11 liberal arts colleges in Africa, Canada, Korea, and the United States, as well as 37 theological schools worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The Church of the Nazarene bonds together individuals who have made Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives, sharing in Christian fellowship, and seeking to strengthen each other in faith and development through worship, preaching, training, and service to others; and

WHEREAS, The Church of the Nazarene stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades while retaining that spiritual resolve which characterizes its past; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to take note of enduring religious institutions and to bring such institutions to the attention of the people of this Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 95th Anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lenroy Pascall, Pastor, Springfield Gardens Church of the Nazarene.