

## 2015-K679

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Vine Wesleyan Church upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Religious institutions, and the many spiritual, social and educational benefits they confer, play a vital role in the development of the moral fabric of a responsible citizenry; and

WHEREAS, It is the tradition of this State and this Nation to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical and spiritual values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commending the Vine Wesleyan Church upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1968, the Wesleyan Church began with the merger of the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the Pilgrim Holiness Church; its first headquarters was located in Houghton, and subsequently, Lockport, New York; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there are 31 Wesleyan churches across Western New York State, and today its headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, Pastor Harold and June Burdick enacted plans to start a new church in the Williamsville/Clarence area; four years later, Pastor Karl and Anita Eastlack led the church into becoming one of the region's first mega churches; and

WHEREAS, In the process of building a new facility in 2001, Eastern Hills began to put together a strategic plan to found another church in Western New York; Lancaster/Depew was selected and chosen for the location and Pastors Christopher and Tammy Baldwin were selected as its leaders; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Vine Wesleyan Church was established, and began

offering worship services at the William Street School, before moving to the Court Street Elementary School for six years; and

WHEREAS, In June of 2011, the Vine Wesleyan Church purchased the former St. Augustine's Church in Depew, New York; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the able leadership of Pastors Christopher and Tammy Baldwin, the Vine Wesleyan Church 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 commend the Vine Wesleyan Church upon the occasion of celebrating its 10th Anniversary, fully confident that this commemoration reflects the belief in those values which enhance the dignity and purpose of life; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Pastors Christopher and Tammy Baldwin, Vine Wesleyan Church.