

2015-J4773

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 165th Anniversary of Andrews United Methodist Church of Brooklyn, New York

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 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 is justly proud to commemorate the 165th Anniversary of Andrews United Methodist Church of Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Ground-breaking for what is now known as Andrews United Methodist Church began on September 15, 1851; since its humble beginnings, the church has been a true community, serving Protestant people of many denominations; and

WHEREAS, In 1869, plans were made to enlarge the church building; though there were only 67 members reported on roll, the attendance was much greater; in 1878, a committee was appointed to build a two-story parsonage; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Wesley was adopted as the name of this first church, and was later changed to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Union Place; and

WHEREAS, In 1893, when the present building was erected, the Bishop of New York was the Reverend Edward Gayer Andrews; due to his great interest in the new church and his contributions to its establishment, the name of the church was once again changed; and

WHEREAS, Andrews United Methodist Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1951, under the pastorate of Dr. Hartley I. Hartman; and

WHEREAS, Through the 1950s and 1960s, Andrews United Methodist Church continued to flourish; the Brooklyn Sunday School Union's Anniversary Day saw large parades with many neighborhood churches participating; and WHEREAS, Andrews United Methodist Church opened the doors of a community in transition throughout the 1970s, seeing its congregation dwindle and the needs of the new community grow; under the leadership of Reverend Shelton Johnson, a Spanish ministry began; and WHEREAS, The 1980s brought even greater challenges to the church; the community was in decline and the new population needed help with literacy, jobs and education; to meet these challenges in part, the Reverend Clarence Bigler, pastor from 1982 to 1987, helped form the Cypress Hills Local Development Corp.; and WHEREAS, Today, this vital organization has led the community in acquiring two new school buildings, P.S. 7, and a new home for P.S. 65 on Jamaica Avenue; and WHEREAS, Located on Richmond Street in Brooklyn, New York, Andrews United Methodist Church has been under the luminous direction of the Reverend Dr. Samuel Arhin since October of 2015; and WHEREAS, At present, Andrews United Methodist Church stands humbly, prayerfully, meditatively and joyfully; and WHEREAS, Andrews United Methodist 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 commemorate the 165th Anniversary of Andrews United Methodist Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Reverend Dr. Samuel Arhin, Andrews United Methodist Church,

Brooklyn, New York.