

## 2013-J4446

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 55th Anniversary of the Albany United Methodist Society

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those organizations and individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Albany United Methodist Society; this auspicious occasion will be celebrated at its 55th Anniversary Banquet, on Thursday, April 10, 2014, at Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Albany United Methodist Society (AUMS), a ministry of the Upper New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, was formed in 1959 as the Albany Methodist Inner City Ministry; and

WHEREAS, For 55 years, this inspired organization has honored its calling to minister to the least of its neighbors in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, AUMS' mission is to be in right relationship with all people, and to focus on and meet the needs of the people of Albany in social, economic, and political crises, nurturing spiritual growth and building individual and collective community, responsibility, accountability, and a sense of self-worth; and

WHEREAS, AUMS fulfills its high purpose by coordinating several programs designed to meet community needs while maximizing the gifts and talents of individuals; and

WHEREAS, To fight hunger, this worthy organization operates an emer-

gency food pantry to feed individuals and families in need; staffed largely by volunteers, the food pantry offers a clothing room to its patrons in order to meet emergency clothing needs; and WHEREAS, AUMS also seeks to feed the hungry through cultivating its Neighborhood Garden; this endeavor not only provides nourishment for the body, it also offers a place for its neighbors to experience the outdoors, get their hands dirty, eat healthily, and make their surroundings more beautiful; along with hosting the garden, AUMS holds nutrition and cooking classes, further building community and feeding souls; and

WHEREAS, AUMS has always cared for the children in its area; in 1965 it worked with Trinity Methodist Church to sponsor Albany's first Head Start Program; today AUMS supports young people through its Summer Youth Enrichment Program, and its FUN Friday drop-in program for children ages six to 12, which provides homework help, snacks and physical activity; and

WHEREAS, AUMS helps people gain skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families through its education programs; in conjunction with the Trinity Institute and BOCES, it provides High School Equivalency (formerly GED) and English as a Second Language courses, and offers support to its students through its Accelerate Mentorship Program; and WHEREAS, AUMS' staff and volunteers take to heart the lesson of the Good Samaritan, remaining steadfast in the conviction that every person is a neighbor, and that generosity is its own reward; and

WHEREAS, The Albany United Methodist Society is a solid cornerstone of the Albany, New York community, and an exemplar of service and commitment; and

WHEREAS, It is the belief of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 55th Anniversary of the Albany United Methodist Society, and to commend its selfless work to improve the lot of others; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Albany United Methodist Society.