

2015-J836

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Amherst Community Church of Snyder, 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 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 commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Amherst Community Church of Snyder, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1915, Amherst Community Church was first founded by members representing the Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist tradition, coming together to build a new church which would unify the developing community; and

WHEREAS, Following the principles of Christian belief, this esteemed religious institution has always reached out to its parishioners in faith and fellowship, and was for many years the only Protestant church in the Amherst/Snyder communities; and

WHEREAS, Amherst Community Church's original building was constructed in 1916, and its current sanctuary was completed in 1951; over the years, numerous expansions and improvements have been added, including the addition of classroom space, a new library, and an elevator for full handicapped accessibility; and

WHEREAS, In 1957, Amherst Community Church became part of the United Church of Christ at the time the denomination was first formed and today, continues to be a proud affiliate; and

WHEREAS, Amherst Community Church's congregation voted in 1987 to declare itself Open and Affirming, extending an intentional welcome to

gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; the congregation was one of the first local churches in the United Church of Christ to take this step; and

WHEREAS, Under the illustrious leadership of Reverend Scott Thomas, Amherst Community 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 100th Anniversary of Amherst Community Church of Snyder, New York, 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 Reverend Scott Thomas, Amherst Community Church.