

2015-J3987

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Amity Baptist Church of Jamaica, 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 Amity Baptist Church of Jamaica, New York; many pre-anniversary worship services will be held as part of its 2016 Centennial Celebration; and

WHEREAS, On February 27, 1916, a Baptist Mission was founded in a store at 159th Street and 109th Avenue, formerly the corner of Prospect and Pacific Streets in Jamaica, New York; and

WHEREAS, Organizers felt that a Baptist Church was needed in the south side of Jamaica, and on March 17, 1916, the Mission was organized as Amity Baptist Church; nearly a month later, Reverend J. Wilson was called as the first Pastor of the Church; and

WHEREAS, On April 16, 1918, Amity Baptist Church was incorporated; the Trustees were faced with the issue of the Church having out-grown its place of worship and purchased the property at 174 Washington Street, now known as 160th Street; and

WHEREAS, Amity Baptist Church, with less than 200 members, remodeled the building, transforming it into a beautiful edifice and on November 14, 1920, the Odd Fellows of Jamaica laid the cornerstone and the Church had its first real house of worship; and

WHEREAS, The little church, dear to the hearts of so many, passed from

the Church's hands on February 5, 1931, to the Greater New York Seventh Day Adventist; through the efforts of Deacon C. E. Stovall, a beautiful site was procured on the corner of 108th Avenue and Brooklyn Avenue, presently known as 164th Place/Rev. James R. Moore Place, which serves as Amity Baptist Church's current location; and

WHEREAS, In April 2008, Reverend Jeffrey Shawn Thompson assumed the Pulpit at Amity Baptist Church and was installed later that year to serve as the Church's eighth Pastor; and

WHEREAS, As Amity Baptist Church celebrates its Anniversary, it will continue building upon 100 years of worshipping, witnessing, and working for the Kingdom; Pastor and people will be united and on one accord to continue this great legacy by forging ahead as the Church endeavors to remain a beacon of light in the Jamaica community living out its mission as the "Christ-Centered Church for Community-Centered Living"; and

WHEREAS, Amity Baptist 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 Amity Baptist Church of Jamaica, 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 Jeffrey Shawn Thompson, Amity Baptist Church.