

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-191

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 3, 2017

To commemorate Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 1720 Minnesota Avenue, S.E., on its 125th anniversary for its many accomplishments and achievements in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, in February 1889, the Anacostia Presbyterian Sabbath (Sunday) School was started by William B. Garden, Alexander. Davidson, Jane Davidson, and Alexander B. Garden in the Masonic Hall on 14th Street, S.E., in Anacostia, then known as “Union Town”;

WHEREAS, in 1892, Alexander Garden donated land to the members of the Sabbath School for a church building;

WHEREAS, on November 6, 1892, the Washington City Presbytery organized Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, named in memory of Alexander Garden;

WHEREAS, an addition to the church was built to include a nursery school for members and the community at affordable rates, space for Bible Study, and expand the Sunday school;

WHEREAS, over the years Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has served the community by providing religious services;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church established a community clothing and food pantry, delivered cans of soup, vegetables, and fruit to the community’s sick and shut-in, and distributed, with our sister church, Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Thanksgiving and Christmas turkey baskets, Christmas toys, and gifts donated by Immanuel Presbyterian Church;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has participated in the “I Have A Dream Program” (funding and tutoring through college/trade school) sponsored by Immanuel Presbyterian Church, in selecting the entire 6th grade graduating class from Ketcham Elementary School and providing space, volunteers for tutoring and lunch, and school supplies;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church assisted with temporary housing by supplying space and sleeping carts to students from Russia on tour in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and coordinated community organizations and merchants to feed the students;

WHEREAS, the church adopted a community family shelter to provide food and clothing and supplied toiletries and assistance with uniform accessories for homeless students at Anacostia High School;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church provided computer and piano lessons to community and awarded piano keyboards to the attendees;

WHEREAS, the church established a Youth Community Choir, dance ensemble, thespian, arts, and crafts programs, and an apprenticeship program for youth to learn how to do the work of the church;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has recognized, by way of a brunch and awarding certificates, members of the community who had worked to empower the community;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has produced Black History plays annually that have been open to the community and provided a Black Hall of Fame, which included black inventors, first blacks, books, artifacts, and the history of slavery to the present;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has coordinated a multi-religious panel of pastors to assist in the fight against drugs;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has initiated the development of a neighbor patrol that later became known as the Orange Hat Program;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has assisted the criminal justice system, high schools, and colleges with space, refreshments, and assignments to allow for the completion of community services requirements;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has provided forums to address incarceration and how to help former inmates returning to the community;

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has provided a meeting space for civil associations, Boy Scouts, the Orange Hat Program, and organizations dealing with incarcerated persons returning home, and provided space for Kramer and Anacostia students to receive prayer before school;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, the Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has provided space, a pastor, choir, and volunteers for funerals and repasts for the indigent; and

WHEREAS, Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church has contributed greatly to Wards 6, 7, and 8 communities and has been providing spiritual guidance and community service for 125 years.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “125th Anniversary of Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church Recognition Resolution of 2017”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and congratulates Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, located at 1720 Minnesota Avenue, S.E., on its 125th anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.