

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-179

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 22, 2019

To recognize and honor Lutheran Church of the Reformation on the occasion of its 150th anniversary on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2019.

WHEREAS, the congregation was developed by the Rev. Dr. William Parson with support and leadership of Capitol Hill families including the Slater, Wetzel, Gillespie, Hickmann, Uternehle, Yount, Cook, and Cross households among others;

WHEREAS, since its inception the congregation has generously cared for its neighbors throughout the District, as demonstrated by the gift of 27 acres by Sara Utermehle to found the Lutheran Home for the Aged in 1890 in Brookland (now the site of the Washington Center for Aging Services); the founding of Southeast Ministry in Congress Heights by the Rev. Wanda McNeill and Mr. Roger Truehart, and the creation of the Reformation Food Pantry in 1990;

WHEREAS, the congregation's clergy and leaders have advanced ecumenical and interfaith cooperation and mutual work for social justice in the District through the Washington Federation of Churches during the 20th century and through the Washington Interfaith Network in the 21st century;

WHEREAS, the congregation has opened the doors of its buildings for use by neighborhood groups like the Capitol Hill Chorale, DC Different Drummers, Friday Morning Music Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Al Anon; as well as by sharing its sanctuary and buildings with Hill Havurah, the Jewish community on Capitol Hill;

WHEREAS, the congregation has provided pastoral care and support for those facing personal crises such as illnesses, family conflicts, vocational discernment, and deaths, including for individuals and the families serving in military and foreign service during world wars and international conflicts;

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WHEREAS, the congregation has been a beacon of welcome for refugees to the United States from Slovakia and Vietnam in the 1970s and 1980s, and from Afghanistan and El Salvador in the 2010s;

WHEREAS, the congregation has provided hospitality and accompaniment to religious and secular advocacy groups that come to Capitol Hill to petition the federal government for redress, including the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice in 1963, the Tractorcade of the American Agriculture Movement in 1979, the Dreamer civil disobedience in 2012, and the LGBTQ Marriage Equality Interfaith Service in 2015;

WHEREAS, the congregation has shaped the Capitol Hill neighborhoods for the common good by helping to found the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals (CHAMPS), the Capitol Hill Day School, and Everyone Home DC (formerly Capitol Hill Group Ministries).

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Lutheran Church of the Reformation 150th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes Lutheran Church of the Reformation for its ongoing commitments to fostering an inclusive, faith-based community that centers social justice and selflessly serving its parishioners, District residents, and neighbors in the broader Washington, DC area over the past 150 years.

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