

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

23-342

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 1, 2020

To recognize and honor Reverend Phillip C. Huber's service and contributions to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and the greater Southwest D.C. community, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, Phillip C. Huber, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, located in the Southwest Waterfront area, will retire on December 31, after 2 decades of service to his Congregation, Ward 6, and the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, for many years, St. Matthew Lutheran Church was the community meeting place for Southwest organizations and provided many services to its Congregation, such as childcare, tutoring, and other programs, in addition to its religious services;

WHEREAS, during the first half of his tenure as pastor, the physical church building began to gradually collapse, creating severe financial pressures on an economically challenged Congregation;

WHEREAS, the land being its most significant asset, under the prayerful leadership of Pastor Huber, the church sought to find a developer to build a new church in exchange for some of its land, but the global 2008 financial meltdown prolonged the demolition of the church and financing complications led to further delays;

WHEREAS, the church sought to maintain its long-term relationship of service to the broader Southwest community through adaptive use of the vacant land after demolition, promoting a community garden and distribution of Christmas trees in season to families in the neighborhood;

WHEREAS, Reverend Huber worked with the Ward 6 Councilmember's office to restore the church's property tax exempt status, enabling the project to finally begin its redemption as a new church for its patient and deserving Congregation;

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

WHEREAS, this past February, 12 years later, worship services at St Matthew Lutheran Church resumed after having shared services with another Lutheran church downtown for many of those years;

WHEREAS, the new building reflects Reverend Huber's inspirational leadership and the St. Matthew Congregation's commitment to the Southwest Community, exemplified by its large modern sanctuary with its state of the art audio-visual system, which can be reconfigured to host large community events, a Community room below nearly as large, classrooms for smaller activities, and conversation space adjacent to the coffee shop;

WHEREAS, St. Matthew has additional space dedicated to large restrooms with showers, including decontamination stations in each, well-equipped kitchen facilities, and space in the garage for a large emergency generator, making it the third of only 3 designated disaster control facilities currently in the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS Phillip C. Huber's knowledge, vision and leadership are indeed exemplary to his Congregation, the Southwest community, Ward 6, and the District of Columbia;

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution be cited as the "Reverend Phillip C. Huber Retirement Ceremonial Recognition Resolution of 2020".

Sec. 2. The Council recognizes and congratulates Reverend Phillip C. Huber for 2 decades of service and contributions to St. Matthew Lutheran Church and the greater Southwest D.C. community and wishes him the best during his retirement.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.