

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 200th Anniversary of Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, of Arcade, New York, to be celebrated on July 13, 2013

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 200th Anniversary of Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, to be celebrated with an evening banquet on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at the Delevan Firefighters' Training Center, at which The Reverend Marian Shearer, Associate Minister of the New York Conference will be the speaker, and a special anniversary church service on Sunday, July 21, 2013, with The Reverend David Gaewski, the New York Conference Minister, preaching; and

WHEREAS, The final event to mark the August bicentennial of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational will be a major church service on Sunday, September 15, 2013, with The Reverend Geoffrey Black, President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ, preaching; and

WHEREAS, The Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, one of the oldest active congregations in Western New York, was organized on July 24, 1813 by The Reverend John Spencer, who was sent by the Connecticut Missionary Society to establish congregations on New York's western frontier; and

WHEREAS, The original church had six members, and was called the Sheldon South Church due to its location in the settlement Town of Sheldon; the congregation's name changed many times over the years, reflecting the growth and change of its environs; its present name has been in use since 1961, when it became part of the new United Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, has been housed in its present structure since 1877; the sanctuary retains much of the original furniture and four of its original windows; and

WHEREAS, Over its faithful 200 year history, the congregation of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, has reflected some of the major social issues and tensions affecting this State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, In the three decades prior to the Civil War, the church was heavily involved in women's rights, the temperance movement, and the abolition of slavery, hosting significant anti-slavery conventions in 1840 and 1844; in addition, some of its members were among the leaders of the Liberty Party in New York State during the 1840s; and

WHEREAS, Today, the members of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, engage in outreach to the community via monthly free dinners and strong support of the local food pantry; support several worthy causes in Western New York, as well as various national and global missions of the United Church of Christ; and, since 1989, some of its members have taken an active role in a mission project to provide medical, nutritional and educational assistance to several remote communities in the mountains of north-central Honduras; and

WHEREAS, During its Bicentennial year, the main activities of the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, include Bible study, the church choir, the Far Cry praise group, the Godly Play Sunday School classes, and an active youth program; and

WHEREAS, The Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, 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 200th Anniversary of Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational, of Arcade, New York, to be observed on July 13, 2013, 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 the Arcade United Church of Christ, Congregational.