

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Bicentennial of St. James' Episcopal Church of Skaneateles, 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 the State of New York to pay tribute to those institutions and individuals who have contributed to the ethical values of their communities; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body takes pleasure in commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of St. James' Episcopal Church of Skaneateles, New York; and

WHEREAS, To celebrate its Bicentennial, St. James' Episcopal Church will host 12 events over the course of a year starting on January 9, 2016; in addition, a book will be published based on interviews with church members conducted during these celebrations; and

WHEREAS, In the earliest days of the Skaneateles community (late 1700s), Anglicans worshipped on the site of St. James' Episcopal Church in Skaneateles; in 1805, they constructed a two-room building to serve as a place for Sunday worship; and

WHEREAS, St. James' Episcopal Church of Skaneateles was first organized on January 6, 1816, and the first church building opened its doors in 1827; and

WHEREAS, St. James' Episcopal Church completed its present building in 1874 with the help of Architect Horatio Nelson White, who had also designed the Gridley Building in downtown Syracuse and the Hall of Languages on the Syracuse University campus; and

WHEREAS, The first instrument in St. James' Episcopal Church sanctuary was an organ built by Hilborne and Frank Roosevelt and donated by members of the Roosevelt family; the organ has since been sold and replaced by the present Ernest M. Skinner organ, which sits on the east side of the chancel; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of its rich history, 17 rectors have led the parish of St. James' Episcopal Church in Skaneateles; St. James' Episcopal Church is presently led by Rector Becky Coerper; and

WHEREAS, Today, St. James' Episcopal Church has a very active youth ministry program, prayer groups, and its staff and volunteers participate in a great number of outreach activities, including staffing the St. James' Thrift Shop in Skaneateles Village, collecting and distributing food to the Skaneateles Ecumenical Food Pantry, and volunteering with various Habitat for Humanity chapters; and

WHEREAS, St. James' Episcopal 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 200th Anniversary of St. James' Episcopal Church of Skaneateles, 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 Rector Becky Coerper, St. James' Episcopal Church of Skaneateles, New York.