

BY: Senator STEWART-COUSINS

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of the Greater
New Zion FBH Church of White Plains, New York

WHEREAS, The quality and character of life in New York State is greatly enriched by its religious institutions and the faithful and generous service of those who devote themselves to endeavors of family, faith, and community; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend institutions of such magnanimous conduct and bearing which demonstrate a deep and continuing concern for others, and in so doing, inspire others to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Greater New Zion FBH Church of White Plains, New York; and

WHEREAS, In May of 1922, a group of seven devout Christians from White Plains, New York, who formed a group for the sole purpose of serving God and worshipping together, sent for the Elder of the Fire Baptized Holiness (FBH) Church of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Elder C.A. Mills came to White Plains and brought with him Sister Mary F. Bell and Sister Alice Hutchinson, who he appointed as Pastor of this new congregation; and

WHEREAS, In 1925, the church group occupied a place on Warren Avenue and remained there until 1927, when Reverend Henry Long lead the building of the Greater New Zion FBH Church on its present site; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, this vital institution continued to grow and in 1958, Pastor Dr. J.J. Martin made many necessary improvements, including new lighting, pews, bathrooms and windows, as well as a kitchen and dining room, a new heating system and a study; and

WHEREAS, Dr. J.J. Martin remained as Pastor for 24 years until his election as Presiding Bishop of the Third Episcopal Diocese of the FBH Church Movement in 1982; and

WHEREAS, In November of 1991, during the annual convention for the Charleston, South Carolina District, Reverend Lee Cobbs was sent to White Plains to serve as Pastor of the Greater New Zion FBH Church; he was an extraordinary preacher, leader and educator, and was instrumental in the establishment of the church's annual week-long anniversary celebrations; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Elton Willoughby was then assigned as Pastor of the church in October of 1997; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the able leadership of its Pastor and District President, Reverend Alfreda Poinsette, and its District Elder, Mark A. Ballew, the Greater New Zion FBH Church now stands on the threshold of tomorrow, prepared to meet the challenges of the coming decades, while retaining that spiritual resolve which has so characterized its glorious 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 acknowledge and pay just tribute to the Greater New Zion FBH Church of White Plains, New York, upon the joyous occasion of its 100th Anniversary, noting with gratitude and respect the ministry it caringly provides on behalf of its congregation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Alfreda Poinsette, Pastor and New England District President; and The Reverend Mark A. Ballew, New England District Elder, Greater New Zion FBH Church.