

BY: Senator WEBB

COMMEMORATING the 150th Anniversary of Tabernacle
United Methodist Church of Binghamton

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, On January 25, 1873, the founders of Tabernacle United Methodist Church gave notice to Centenary Church, at that time the only Methodist Church in Binghamton, that they intended to leave and begin a new church on Binghamton's west side; and

WHEREAS, An organizational meeting was held on February 10, 1873 at 79 Front Street where the first Trustees were elected: Nial T. Childs, Moses T. Winton, Robert B. Watson, Henry W. Horton, and N.H.P. Barrett; furthermore, during this time, two lots were purchased at the corner of Arthur and Main Streets, where the present church stands; and

WHEREAS, On March 14, 1873, building began on what was then known as the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church; by April of that same year, 151 full members and 31 probationers transferred to the new church, as well as 65 Sunday School students and ten teachers; and

WHEREAS, At the dedication of the first small church on May 25, 1873, the scripture "How amiable are Thy tabernacles" was read, leading to the renaming of the congregation to Tabernacle United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, As the years went on, the need for a new larger church became apparent, and the cornerstone of the present church was laid on September 2, 1883; and

WHEREAS, In 1923, a church fire spread through the church to the auditorium, but Tabernacle United Methodist Church rebuilt in six months; and

WHEREAS, During the mid-1950s, Tabernacle United Methodist Church saw the growth of its Sunday service with five choirs and 100 voices; in addition, during these years there were many groups that flourished within the church, including the Amici Club, the Red Cross Sewing Club, the Women's Society of Christian Service, the King's Daughters, the Motet Singers, the Oratorio Society, the Tabernacle Tornadoes basketball league, and Girl Scouts, amongst others; and

WHEREAS, In 1988, a two-day conference was held at Tabernacle United Methodist Church with local government and law enforcement to address

racial issues within the community; it was unofficially called the Civilian Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, With a steadfast and unwavering commitment to its community, Tabernacle United Methodist Church began hosting Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous in the 1980s; in 1992, a Wednesday night free meal began to be offered along with a short worship service called Steps in Faith; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, Broome County's Meals on Wheels began to distribute meals from the church; a large grant was also awarded from Broome County to redo the gym floor and start a new afterschool program called "The Westside Community Gym Afterschool Program" which serves the neighborhood children; and

WHEREAS, A true cornerstone in the community for 150 years, Tabernacle United Methodist Church is a strong and loving place to worship, as well as a beacon of light and resilience in the Binghamton community; and

WHEREAS, Today, Tabernacle United Methodist Church 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 commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Tabernacle United Methodist Church of Binghamton, New York, 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 Tabernacle United Methodist Church of Binghamton, New York.