

BY: Senator PARKER

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Evangelical Crusade Christian-Church upon the occasion of hosting its 50th Annual Holy Convocation and Jubilee Celebration on May 21, 2023

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, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Evangelical Crusade Christian-Church of Brooklyn, New York, upon the occasion of hosting its 50th Annual Holy Convocation and Jubilee Celebration on Sunday, May 21, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Crusade Christian-Church (ECCC), also known as the Evangelical Crusade of Fishers of Men Church (ECFM), was established in February of 1973 by Bishop Philius H. Nicolas; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, ECCC has stayed true to its mission of developing its members and others through instruction and spiritual tutelage by providing guidance concerning the articles of faith, thereby advancing the spiritual growth and enlightenment of its members and community; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Philius H. Nicolas began his ministry career as an associate pastor position of Evangelical Haitian Church of Christ where he served for nine years, until he established ECCC; today, the Church is led by Philius' son, the Reverend Samuel Nicolas; and

WHEREAS, Born in Port au Prince, Haiti, Samuel Nicolas and his family emigrated to the United States at the young age of nine; he grew up in the ECCC, and learned from his father how to be a leader, serving in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Upon the retirement of his father, Reverend Samuel Nicolas took over the helm of the ECCC; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the ECCC, Samuel Nicolas worked for 28 years in various civic roles such as government operations in the City of New York, serving the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development and as Director of community relations and constituent services of the New York State Comptroller's Office; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Samuel Nicolas earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Hunter College, and a Master of Divinity degree with a

concentration in pastoral counseling and family from the Evangelical Seminary in New York; he also received an honorary doctorate in theology and various certifications; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 31 years, Faride; their three children, Jonathan, Mark, and Gloria; and grandchildren, Jacob and Charlotte, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Reverend Samuel Nicolas, the Evangelical Crusade Christian-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 commend the Evangelical Crusade Christian-Church upon the occasion of hosting its 50th Annual Holy Convocation and Jubilee Celebration on May 21, 2023; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Samuel Nicolas, Evangelical Crusade Christian-Church.