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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church, named for the father of United States Senator William B. McKinley, at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Illinois is celebrating its Centennial in 2006-2007; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church was the first Presbyterian Church in the United States organized specifically for students at a public university; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian's original church building was completed in 1912, an expansion was added in 1952, and the sanctuary was restored and remodeled in 1983; a student ministry foundation building was completed in the midst of the depression in 1930, with the Governor of the State of Illinois giving the dedication speech; a cloister, connecting the church and foundation buildings, was constructed in 1938 and restored in 2006; and a new 5-story student residence and remodeling of the foundation building is planned for 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church has had twelve Pastors, seven who also served as Directors of the Foundation, who have provided leadership over the 100 years; the present Pastor and Director, Rev. Heidi Weatherford, is the first woman to occupy the role; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian's former women's residence, Presby Hall, is being used in 2006-2007 by the Hillel Jewish Student Foundation while the Foundation builds a new facility across the street from the church; the congregation has a history of ecumenical activity and has hosted Pentecostal churches in the late 1970's, late 1980's and at present, the Eastern Orthodox church between 1977 and 2001, a Metropolitan church in 1977-1979, and a Korean Presbyterian church at the present; congregation members also organized the local chapter

1 of the Interfaith Alliance; the church is also a member of the
2 Center for Progressive Christianity national network; and

3 WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church has a distinguished
4 history of civil rights and social justice involvement that
5 includes, but is not limited to, sponsoring world trips for
6 Presbyterian missions, taking part in civil rights and racial
7 equality marches both in the South and locally, taking part in
8 protests against the military draft and involvement in the
9 Vietnam War, providing a rent supplement program for
10 disadvantaged families, establishing a day-care facility for
11 low income families, repairing abandoned bicycles to give to
12 international students, sponsoring a free used clothing
13 exchange for student and refugee families, aiding in the
14 resettlement of several Laotian refugee families, offering
15 full inclusion and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and
16 transgender people, supporting environmental issues,
17 sponsoring mission trips for construction work and health care
18 to the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, supporting the sanctuary
19 movement for Central American refugees, housing the Men's
20 Winter Emergency Shelter, supporting the homeless, and taking
21 part in the Iraq peace movement; and

22 WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church includes an array of
23 beautiful and unique stained glass windows that adorn the
24 sanctuary and represent both its history and values: a
25 priceless Tiffany window depicting the parable of the "Good
26 Samaritan", crafted and installed with the dedication of the
27 Church building in 1912; the only "Inclusiveness" stained glass
28 window in America; a Presbyterian window with the images of
29 reformers Knox and Calvin; a science as God's creation window
30 with images of Louis Pasteur and Marie Curie; a social justice
31 window with images of Rosa Parks and Archbishop Oscar Romero; a
32 children and women's rights window with images of Eleanor
33 Roosevelt and Jane Addams; and three windows dedicated
34 specifically to students; and

1 WHEREAS, McKinley Presbyterian Church has been a beacon for
2 social justice, student ministry, and Christian service in its
3 first 100 years; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate the congregation of McKinley Presbyterian
7 Church on their Centennial celebration and wish them the best
8 in the next 100 years; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the congregation of McKinley Presbyterian Church.