



HR1106

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the congregation  
4 of the First United Methodist Church in Elgin on the occasion  
5 of the church's 175th anniversary; and

6           WHEREAS, The rich history of the First United Methodist  
7 Church began in 1837, when Reverend Washington Wilcox was  
8 appointed as the head of the Elgin Circuit and became the first  
9 minister of the First United Methodist Church; and

10           WHEREAS, The cornerstone of the building currently used by  
11 the congregation of the First United Methodist Church was laid  
12 on January 24, 1924; it is the third structure built on that  
13 site since 1839; the building covers over half a city block and  
14 has 101 rooms; and

15           WHEREAS, The First United Methodist Church has been a  
16 strong part of the Elgin community throughout the years, seeing  
17 Elgin residents and the congregation through the Civil War,  
18 both World Wars, and the Great Depression; the church has given  
19 unstinting support to numerous community-wide Christian  
20 efforts, including the All People's Inter-Faith Food Pantry and  
21 Friendly Aid programs for the less fortunate; the church was  
22 instrumental in organizing a volunteer chaplaincy at Sherman

1 Hospital, and in the later development of a full-time  
2 Chaplain's office at the hospital; and

3 WHEREAS, In July of 1950, with a congregation of 1,600  
4 members, the First United Methodist Church appointed Carlton C.  
5 Rogers to serve as minister; after 34 years of service, Carlton  
6 Rogers became the longest-serving minister in the church's  
7 history; and

8 WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church inaugurated the  
9 annual Elgin Inter-Faith Service in 1972; the program extends  
10 the hand of fellowship to clergymen of the Catholic and Jewish  
11 faiths in symbolic religious service and has been cited by the  
12 United States Congress; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, the First United Methodist Church  
14 continues its service to the community by opening its doors to  
15 various groups and organizations as a meeting place; the  
16 congregation also participates in food pantry events and hosts  
17 weekly Soup Kettle Evenings; and

18 WHEREAS, The scope and divergence of the church's  
19 activities and a Christian commitment that extends from Elgin  
20 to the greater community of the world demonstrates that the  
21 First United Methodist Church has met and exceeded the  
22 expectations of its 175-year history; and

1           WHEREAS, The First United Methodist Church has planned a  
2 year-long celebration, with several public events to bring the  
3 congregation together and revisit its early roots; the  
4 congregation will also have an official 175th anniversary  
5 service on October 14, 2012; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we congratulate the congregation of the First United Methodist  
9 Church on the occasion of the church's 175th anniversary and  
10 wish them continued success and happiness in the future; and be  
11 it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the First United Methodist Church as a symbol of  
14 our esteem and respect.