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R2012-482

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City Council Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/24/2012
Sponsor(s):	O'Shea, Matthew J. (19)
Type:	Resolution
Title:	Congratulations extended to Bethany Union Community Church
Committee(s) Assignment:	

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Bethany Union Community Church was established on May 5, 1872; and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Union is the oldest English speaking Church continually to serve the Beverly/Morgan Park community; and,

WHEREAS, Members and Pastors of Bethany Union are remembered in the community by the naming of Barnard School, Drew Street, and the Howe House, among others; and,

WHEREAS, The founders of Bethany Union were Reverend and Mrs. J.B Drew (Free Baptists); Lauren P Hillard, Mrs. M.E. Hilliard, and William Hilliard (Episcopalian); Miss Elizabeth Barnard (Congregationalist); Miss Alice Barnard (Presbyterian); Miss Alice S. Barnard, T.B. Stebbins, J.A. Stebbins, G. Watters, and L.A. Watters (Methodist); M.P. Bartlett and Mary Bartlett (Baptist), 14 members representing 6 denominations; and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Union has always opened its door to any Christian of good will; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend J.B. Drew and Reverend Heffron served as pastors in 1872, with Reverend Drew serving through 1888; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Drew was succeeded by Reverend E.R. Worrell, Reverend George Hunt, Reverend George Williams, and Reverend George Laird, through 1910; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Clyde McGee was Pastor from 1910 through 1945; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Ernest Snodgrass and Reverend J.G. Gilkey were pastors from 1946 through 1959; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend E Weldon Keckley served as Pastor from 1960 through 1985; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Charles Hastie served as interim Pastor for nine months in 1986 and 1994-5; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Lindvall served as pastor from 1986-1994; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend William O'Donnell, D. Min., has served since June of 1995 as Pastor of Bethany Union; and,

WHEREAS, Miss Alice Howe, a member of Bethany Union, served as a missionary to Kobe, Japan, for many years, founding a college for kindergarten teachers, and returning home in 1940 with honors from the Japanese government; and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Union and its pastors and members has been active in the Ministerial Association, The Protestant Cluster, the Community Food Pantry, New Neighbors, and A New Direction, among many other community endeavors; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor O'Donnell is the current President of the Beverly/Morgan Park Community of Churches; and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Union Community Church has frequently opened its church doors for events that benefit the community, be they debates, forums, or CAPS meetings; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the City Council, assembled this 24th Day of April, 2012, acknowledge Bethany Union's involvement in the life of the City of Chicago, and honor the celebration of Bethany Union Community Church's 140th Anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Pastor O'Donnell.



Matthew J. O'Shea
Alderman, 19th Ward

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