



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 21-1811, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

WHEREAS, the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights (FUMCAH) adopted an inclusive statement in 2009, “We celebrate humanity’s diversity of age, racial and ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, special needs, socio-economic conditions, and family status. Created in the image of God, all persons are worthy of God’s love and grace and welcomed into full participation in the life of our congregation.”; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH has lived these values while facing a string of hateful acts where a rainbow Pride flag was vandalized or ripped down several time over the course of six months; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH hosted a Pride Parade of Lights on January 17th; and

WHEREAS, a gathering of 200 people including church members and other community members marched with lights and stood with lit candles along Euclid Rd. to counteract the hateful acts and love boldly; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH has shown its commitment to radical inclusivity for years through its programming and ministry; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH established it’s Reconciling Ministry over a decade ago which is dedicated to seeking justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

WHEREAS, the Reconciling Ministry participates in local LGBTQ events including Pride Parades to show their full support of the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS, the Reconciling Ministry also offers workshops on how to incorporate the use of pronouns, normalize the practice, and to support people that are going by different pronouns; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH offers the Pinwheels Support Group where parents with transgender children and their siblings have a safe space to meet where the kids can play together while the parents share experiences and resources; and

WHEREAS, FUMCAH hosts a Rainbow Circle, a group for LGBTQ Christians to gather regularly to share their experience, worship, and attend social events; and

WHEREAS, this church community represents the inclusivity that is vital to realizing equity for the LGBTQ and other marginalized communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights for the outstanding work they do in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights, Lead Pastor Melissa Earley, Pastor of Faith Formation Lynn Mikels, and the Chair of the Reconciling Ministry Thom Frerk.