



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 18-2428, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING THE PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH AS IT CELEBRATES ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Community Church was the first church established in Park Ridge and is the oldest Congregational Church in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the Park Ridge Community Church provides its members a great opportunity to practice, demonstrate, and share their developing Christian faith through worship services, exceptional music offerings, outreach programs, Christian education, and a wide variety of service and fellowship opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1841, a small group of Christians-in an area newly opened to settlement between Norwood Park and the Des Plaines River-decided to worship together despite their different religious backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, eventually those informal gatherings on Sunday mornings led the group to officially organize as the Monroe Congregational Church on January 22, 1843; and

WHEREAS, in 1868, the first permanent minister, Rev. J.H. Laird, was hired, and the church became formally affiliated with the Congregational Church. The first structure was completed in 1873 with donated land, labor, and brick from local brickyards; and

WHEREAS, after World War I, the church enjoyed a period of stability and growth, beginning with Orvis Fairlee Jordan's 35-year pastorate; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Rev. Tom Maurer became Senior Minister and served until 1969. During his tenure, the intellectual life of the congregation was deepened through his preaching as was the fellowship of the church through his implementation of small community groups; and

WHEREAS, over the next several decades, leadership at Park Ridge Community Church continued to expand the congregation and its ministries; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Brett McCleneghan served from June 2001 through August 2017 and worked to create a welcoming and inclusive place to worship, learn, serve, and grow in faith-and significantly enhanced programs for children, middle and high school students, and adults alike; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration of Park Ridge Community Church's 175th Anniversary will continue throughout 2018 with concerts, social events, and opportunities for 175 acts of service and kindness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby congratulate the Park Ridge Community Church as it celebrates its 175-Year Anniversary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to Park Ridge Community Church as a token of our appreciation for its historic and continued service to the community.