

1 Introduced by Council Member Boylan:
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4 **RESOLUTION 2024-774**

5 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING MANDARIN
6 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS
7 150TH ANNIVERSARY; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Mandarin United Methodist Church, located at 11270
10 San Jose Boulevard, will be celebrating its 150th anniversary on
11 November 17, 2024. Mandarin United Methodist Church is the second-
12 oldest church in the Mandarin community and among the oldest
13 congregations in Jacksonville; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Mandarin United Methodist Church was formed in 1874
15 shortly after famous author Harriet Beecher Stowe settled nearby. The
16 first pastor, T.W. Moore, rode by horseback to the first church site
17 and would go on to establish the nearby Fruit Cove community before
18 becoming the fourth President of Florida Southern College; and

19 **WHEREAS**, since 1960, the congregation has been housed in three
20 Mandarin locations during its history - just south of its current
21 location at San Jose Boulevard and Loretto Road; north of I-295 at
22 the intersection of San Jose Boulevard and Old St. Augustine Road and
23 at its current location, 11270 San Jose Boulevard. With this history,
24 it is evident that Mandarin United Methodist Church has always been
25 at the "heart" of the thriving Mandarin community. This congregation
26 precedes the formation of the current United Methodist Church
27 denomination in 1968 and the building of the essential Buckman Bridge
28 across the neighboring St. Johns River in 1970; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the congregation meets at the 10-acre location and
30 has had a membership of 3,000-plus for much of the last two decades.
31 The church has been served by 57 pastors throughout its history and

1 has served the community with an assortment of activities that have
2 been vital to Mandarin's identity, most prominently Upward Sports at
3 its gymnasium and fields, the pumpkin patch each fall, crafts fair
4 and Learning Ladders preschool; and

5 **WHEREAS,** Mandarin United Methodist Church's motto for the
6 anniversary year is "150 Years and Our Story is Still Unfolding"; now
7 therefore

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

9 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby honors and commends the
10 congregation of Mandarin United Methodist Church on reaching the
11 outstanding milestone of its 150th anniversary and congratulates the
12 members on an exemplary history of faith and service. The Council
13 extends best wishes to Pastor Britt Gilmore, Associate Pastor Missy
14 Hart, Longleaf Pastor Kevin Griffin, and all the ministries and
15 members of the church for many more decades of success.

16 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
17 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
18 without the Mayor's signature.

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20 Form Approved:

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22 /s/ Shannon MacGillis

23 Office of General Counsel

24 Legislation Prepared By: Jeff Clements, City Council Research

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