

Proclamation

Be it known that

Whereas,

On October 13, 1839, The Rev. William Youell Allen preached in a large room in the Bullock Hotel; and

Whereas,

That afternoon, another meeting was held, where the first church in Austin, a Presbyterian Church, with six members was organized, among them, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bullock, Allen Burke, and Abner H. Cook, becoming the first church chartered in what would become Austin two and a half months later; and

Whereas,

Abner Cook, known as the "builder of Austin" was one of the two contractors who helped to construct a small frame sanctuary for that first Presbyterian church in 1841; and

Whereas,

Central Presbyterian Church has sponsored and supported the following "planting" of Presbyterian churches around Austin, namely Highland Presbyterian, University Presbyterian, Westminster Presbyterian, Wilshire (now Genesis) Presbyterian, and Covenant Presbyterian; and

Whereas,

Central Presbyterian Church has, through the ages, been on the forefront of social services and Christian progressiveness, working as a "more light congregation" to include all God's children in the full membership of the church, by working for a more just and inclusive community through advocating on behalf of and with persons of all races, our homeless neighbors, and the LGBTQ community, and

Whereas,

In 2006, Central Presbyterian Church was the first church to become a SXS venue; and

Whereas Central Presbyterian Church hosts approximately 75 homeless people each Thursday morning, helping them obtain IDs, voter registration, and clothing, as well as providing breakfast, and hosts a homeless women's luncheon on Tuesdays; and

Whereas,

Central Presbyterian Church is a dynamic community of people of faith, welcoming all who will enter to their "deliberately diverse and fully inclusive" church family.

Now, Therefore,

I, Kirk Watson, Mayor of the City of Austin, Texas, do hereby proclaim

October 13th, 2024

as

Central Presbyterian Church Day

in Austin.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Austin to be affixed this 13th Day of October in the Year Two Thousand Twenty Four

Kirk Watson

Kirk Watson, Mayor, City of Austin



The State of Texas



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of Central Presbyterian Church in Austin are celebrating the 185th anniversary of their church's founding on October 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, The first church chartered in Austin, Central Presbyterian Church was organized on October 13, 1839, by the Reverend William Youell Allen and a small group of founding members; the congregation initially met in the Bullock Hotel before moving to a small frame sanctuary in 1841, but Presbyterian services lapsed until the First Presbyterian Church was organized in 1850; the current building was dedicated in May 1875, and the church took its present name following the reunification of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches in 1983; and

WHEREAS, Since its founding, Central Presbyterian Church has benefited from the dedicated efforts of many outstanding clergy, including Pastor Katheryn Barlow-Williams, who leads the congregation today; it has counted among its members many influential Austin citizens, including the Reverend Richmond K. Smoot, William Sidney Porter (O. Henry), the Reverend Jack Stotts, and Rose Lancaster; and

WHEREAS, United by their shared faith and strong traditions, the members of this notable house of worship have established a variety of commendable programs that foster fellowship and offer help to those in need; it has supported local nonprofit organizations and maintains programs to assist Austin's unhoused community; throughout its history, the church has been on the forefront of progressive Christian values, working for a more just and inclusive community by advocating in behalf of vulnerable citizens; in addition, it has provided free weekly concerts since 1980 and has hosted South by Southwest Music Festival events since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Countless Austin residents have looked to Central Presbyterian Church for spiritual guidance over the years, and it is a pleasure to join in honoring the church at this special time in its rich history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 185th anniversary of Central Presbyterian Church be commemorated and that its members be extended sincere best wishes for the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Hinojosa", written over a horizontal line.

Gina Hinojosa
State Representative
District 49