



HR0206

LRB104 12756 MST 23912 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate United Congregations of
4 Metro-East for 25 years of dedicated service, advocacy, and
5 leadership in the pursuit of justice, equity, and community
6 empowerment; and

7 WHEREAS, United Congregations of Metro-East was
8 established in 2000 with six church members and has since
9 grown into a diverse, multicultural congregation that welcomes
10 individuals of all faiths, ethnic backgrounds, and economic
11 classes in southwestern Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, UCM has been a steadfast advocate for social and
13 environmental justice, working to create equitable
14 opportunities and improve the quality of life for marginalized
15 communities; and

16 WHEREAS, UCM has played a pivotal role in advancing
17 legislative and policy initiatives, including:

18 (1) Supporting the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act
19 (CEJA), signed into law by Governor J.B. Pritzker in
20 September 2021, which sets a path to 100 percent
21 carbon-free energy by 2045 and prioritizes equity and
22 workforce development;

(2) Advocating for Debt Free Justice, the only national campaign dedicated to eliminating fees and fines in the juvenile justice system;

(3) Championing the Pre-Trial Fairness Act, making Illinois the first state to eliminate cash bail and ensuring a fairer justice system; and

(4) Supporting the establishment of the Madison County Mental Health Court, providing critical resources for individuals in need of mental health interventions; and

WHEREAS, UCM has made significant contributions to environmental justice, including:

(1) Conducting air quality research in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess pollution levels in East St. Louis and highlight disparities affecting marginalized communities; and

(2) Establishing a central hub for environmental justice, bringing together community members, organizations, and policymakers to advocate for racial equity and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, UCM has achieved several notable accomplishments throughout its history, including:

(1) Educational Initiatives: Playing a key role in the establishment of the first charter school in Madison County, expanding educational opportunities for local

1 students;

2 (2) Environmental Advocacy: Partnering with the Sierra
3 Club to help Alton become the first "Cool City" in the
4 Metro-East area, demonstrating leadership in
5 sustainability;

6 (3) Community Health Efforts: Raising funds for drug
7 treatment and rehabilitation centers to address critical
8 public health needs; and

9 (4) Economic Development: Collaborating with various
10 agencies to provide employment and training for local
11 contractors, fostering job creation and economic
12 stability; and

13 WHEREAS, In recognition of its leadership and impact, UCM,
14 in partnership with Madison County Planning & Development's
15 Green Schools Program and St. Louis University, was awarded
16 the Outstanding Local Government Achievement (OLGA) Award by
17 the East-West Gateway Council of Governments for its project,
18 A Visual Approach to Educating a Community on Air Quality; and

19 WHEREAS, As UCM commemorates its 25th anniversary, it
20 remains committed to uniting faith, community, and power to
21 create lasting and meaningful change in the Metro-East region;
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 congratulate United Congregations of Metro-East for 25 years
3 of dedicated service, advocacy, and leadership in the pursuit
4 of justice, equity, and community empowerment; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to UCM as a symbol of our respect and esteem.