

*A TOWN OF NATICK CITATION
PRESENTED TO
REVEREND JON STRAND*

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand has served St. Paul's Episcopal Church for 20 years helping grow the congregation with leadership and new ministry. He expanded work with the youth and children and created an environment of welcome and care for all who sought to be involved; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand actively supported the furthering of Open Door as a place for regular community meals for those who could be isolated from one another; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand's leadership expanded to assist others in need, he extended outreach beyond the walls of the church to the local community, Metro Boston, Haiti and Tanzania; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand worked to support development of affordable housing in Natick, and supported the work of Family Promise's formation as a founding congregation; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand participated in the Healthy Communities training for town leaders to create communal dialogue across segregated service sectors, between businesses, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, the elderly, and others; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand supported many families in town during times when they had no other pastoral support when they were grieving; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand worked with Nipmuc tribal members and Natick School Committee members to advocate for the renaming of the Natick High school mascot; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand served as chaplain at MetroWest Medical Center and for eight years led discussions on compassionate care called Schwartz rounds at LMH Hospital; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand supported the engagement of the Natick Interfaith Clergy Association with town issues of social justice, and the inclusion of Muslim colleagues, and giving voice to issues as a representative of the Natick Interfaith Clergy, including advocating for equal marriage, reasonable gun control, and development of the Natick Public Schools; and

WHEREAS Rev. Jon Strand served as a catalyst for the formation of Natick is United, standing up to advocate for many social justice issues in the schools, supporting the anti-bullying efforts in town, and serving as a member of the Freedom Team created to respond to incidents of intolerance with compassion and respect;

NOW THEREFORE the Natick Board of Selectmen recognizes and honors Reverend Jon Strand for his outstanding leadership promoting social justice within our community and beyond; and his twenty years of service to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, this January 29, 2018.

Jonathan H. Freedman, Chair

Michael J. Hickey, Jr.

Susan G. Salamoff, Vice Chair

Amy K. Mistrout

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk