

A TOWN OF NATICK RESOLUTION
IN RECOGNITION OF
REVEREND ERIC MARKMAN

WHEREAS, Reverend Eric Markman, pastor of the Hartford Street Presbyterian Church for the past ten years has left Natick for a new calling in Delaware, his departure is a loss not only to his congregation, but to the Town as well; and

WHEREAS, he has been a force in the Natick Interfaith Clergy, especially for his leadership in Natick's celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Also, he has reached out to other houses of worship - notably Temple Israel of Natick and Framingham's Masjid E Basheer mosque - to form deep and lasting bonds. He has exchanged pulpits with Rabbi Liben of Temple Israel on several occasions, both delivering sermons to each other's congregations; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Markman has shown that he practices what he preaches. He has said that we have a duty to care for one another. He encouraged his church's lay leadership to lease land to the Natick Conservation Commission for a community garden. He personally toiled to build its raised-bed planters and he invited congregants from other houses of worship - Jewish, Muslim, Episcopal and Unitarian as well as Presbyterian - to help in the effort. Working side by side gave everyone a new perspective; and

WHEREAS, suggested by Reverend Markman, four of the plots in the community garden were reserved for the church's use, and he vigorously encouraged members of other congregations to help plant, maintain and harvest those plots. The fresh fruits and vegetables grown there are donated to A Place To Turn, the food pantry that serves the region which is also on church property; and

WHEREAS, when the Religious School of Temple Israel requested to assign the church as its evacuation location in their emergency plan, the church readily agreed. Reverend Markman went a step further, personally delivering to the temple a key to the church. A few months later, after news of a deadly attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue rocked the community, Reverend Markman walked down the street again, this time accompanied by an entourage of parishioners. They offered to stand guard outside the Temple during Saturday services, should the Jewish community feel unsafe; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Natick Select Board does hereby commend and thank Reverend Eric Markman for his outstanding service to Natick and the regional community. We wish him well in his new position.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and caused the Seal of the Town of Natick to be affixed on this 24th day of February 2021.

NATICK SELECT BOARD

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