

Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

IN THE MATTER OF HONORING EASTER HILL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND, CA ON ITS 65TH
ANNIVERSARY

RESOLUTION NO. 2016/605

WHEREAS, Easter Hill United Methodist Church was started in the late 1940's- early 1950's when residents identified the need for a Methodist church in South Richmond. It began with meetings in the apartment of Jones and Mattie Mann, where fundraising and other planning began for a permanent church; and

WHEREAS, the early planning group raised \$1,600 which was used to buy a piece of property at 30th Street and Hoffman Blvd, the site of the first Easter Hill United Methodist Church, named for a small hill between 28th Street and Hoffman Blvd. in Richmond, where Easter Sunrise Worship was held. Several pastors served the early church during the planning stage including Rev. Dixon, followed by Rev. S.D. Rhone, Rev. Carr and Rev. W. B. Smith, and Rev. Wilbur R. Johnson, who arrived from Boston in 1951 to serve as Easter Hill United Methodist Church's first official pastor; and

WHEREAS, the state needed the church's land for freeway expansion, so in 1956 it moved to 39th Street and Cutting Blvd. Rev. Booker Anderson lead Easter Hill Methodist faithfully from 1959 to 1969, a period when it was known as a Social Justice Church, counting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. among its distinguished speakers; and

WHEREAS, over the next few decades as the church grew in congregants, activities and programs, several devoted and inspirational pastors led Easter Hill, including Rev. Dr. A. Edward Bell, Rev. Amos Cambridge, Rev. Max Brown, Rev. David Houston, Rev. Ronald Swisher, and Rev. Dorothy Williams, the first African-American female pastor ordained by the California-Nevada conference; and

WHEREAS, approaching the turn of the century, East Hill pastors included Frederick G. Grey, Reginald Nichols, and Rev. Phillip Lawson, who served until he retired in 2003; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Easter Hill purchased property between 36th and 37th streets on Cutting Boulevard, opening a thrift store, and Family Life Center; and

WHEREAS, after Rev. Lawson's retirement, Rev. Billye Austin led the church until his retirement in 2014 when Easter Hill's current pastor, Rev. Donald Francis Guest was appointed; and

WHEREAS, during this rich history, Easter Hill United Methodist church earned a reputation as a thriving center of spirituality, community service, and commitment to human rights; and

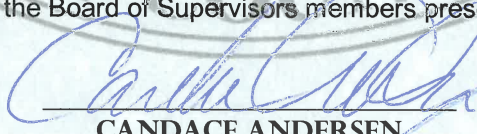
WHEREAS, in 2016, Easter Hill is celebrating 65 years of inspired service to the people of Richmond and West Contra Costa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby honor

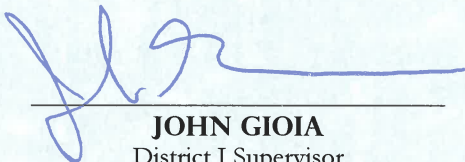
Easter Hill United Methodist Church

of Richmond, CA on its 65th Anniversary.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 1st day of November, 2016.



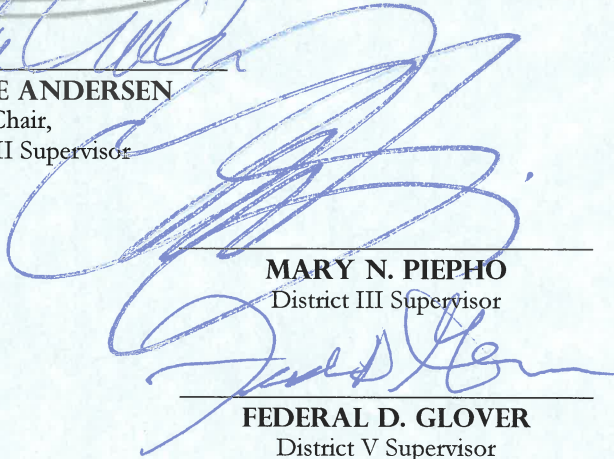
CANDACE ANDERSEN
Chair,
District II Supervisor



JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor



KAREN MITCHOFF
District IV Supervisor



MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: November 1, 2016

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By Stephanie Mello, Deputy