

No. R-394. House concurrent resolution congratulating the United Church of Bethel on its bicentennial anniversary.

(H.C.R.305)

Offered by: Representative Haas of Rochester

Offered by: Senators McCormack, Campbell, and Nitka

Whereas, 1816 began in Vermont with a mild winter, and

Whereas, in early June, a snowstorm blanketed the State, and all of the months of the year thereafter brought frost and food shortages, and

Whereas, it is now known that the eruption of a mighty Pacific volcano, Mount Tambora in Indonesia, darkened the world's skies, and the year became widely known as "The Scarce Year" and "The Year Without Summer," and

Whereas, in Vermont, 1816 became the coldest year in the State's history and has been called ever after "1816 and Froze to Death," and

Whereas, that fearful year the people of Bethel built, of locally-made brick, a church, for the use of all denominations, based on the drawings of the renowned Vermont architect Asher Benjamin, and

Whereas, that church stands to this day, now known as the United Church of Bethel, that its beloved Pastor Tom Harty presides over, and who this April 7, 2016 brought his words in a devotional message to the Vermont House of Representatives, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the United Church of Bethel on its bicentennial anniversary, which will officially occur on Christmas Eve, 2016, and wishes this indomitable historic house of worship a joyous birthday and long future of service to the people of the State of Vermont, and offers best wishes to all those who pass through its old and ever-welcoming doors, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the United Church of Bethel.