

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, forty years ago Sadie Bleekman had a vision to start a new church in the western area of Ormond Beach, whereby Dr. Douglas Holden was appointed in 1978 to conduct a study of the need for a new church in this area and to serve as its first pastor with worship services beginning the fall of that year at the Tomoka Elementary School. On Easter Sunday, April 15, 1979, an organizational chartering service was conducted and the Tomoka United Methodist Church came into being; and

WHEREAS, that same year, five and one-half acres of land between Old Tomoka Road and Granada Boulevard was donated by Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Henderson to be the permanent site for the Tomoka United Methodist Church campus, whose construction of Bleekman Hall was completed in 1982 with the beautiful sanctuary building and education wing constructed in 1993—hence a new church for the community whose lighted cross reminded all who pass our way that “*Jesus Christ is the Light of the World*”; and

WHEREAS, the Tomoka United Methodist Church’s ministry and spiritual programs have continued to grow through blended worship services, Bible study, youth and children’s programs, music ministry, The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men’s groups, Women of the Word, and outreach and nurturing to church members and the community; and

WHEREAS, the senior pastors serving the Tomoka United Methodist Church have been Douglas Holden, Clifford Melvin, Kenneth Zimmerman, John Gill, Steven Burns, Kandace Brooks, Brian Johnson, and currently Pastor José Carrión, as well as associate pastors Casey Neely and Sharon Dey; and

WHEREAS, through the years, the Tomoka United Methodist Church has strived to be a visible and active presence of Christ where we show God’s love by our service to each other, our local community and the world...*and everyone is welcome!*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Partington, Mayor of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2019, as a time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ministry of the

TOMOKA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the seal of the City of Ormond Beach, Florida, to be affixed this 28th day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nineteen.



BILL PARTINGTON
Mayor