



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** R-666-23, **Version:** 1

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Council Members Morris, Hobbs and McPherson

**Recognizing Pastor Larry Clark for his 35 years of dedicated ministry to the Toledo community and for his calling to “feed the poor, clothe the naked and advocate for social justice.**

WHEREAS, as a teenager, Larry Clark would see footage of the Vietnam War on the nightly news, his Christian denomination was engaged in social justice activities, and social change was on the rise; and

WHEREAS, all his church assignments - in Toledo, Columbus, and Cincinnati - were urban churches, with the exception of Sylvania First UMC, where he served between 2006 and 2015, and he knew he wanted to be an urban pastor, he said, and later into his ministry pursued a doctorate in sociology from Bowling Green State University to better help his work in these churches; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Clark believes that, “If your mission is to follow Jesus, you’re supposed to feed the poor, clothe the naked, you’re supposed to be involved in social justice . . . . Those are the things Jesus called us to do;” and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving five local congregations he has been a community leader, done interfaith work, worked with the Toledo City Council, and more; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Clark, 68, is set to retire from full-time ministry Jan. 1 after serving as a pastor in the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church for 44 years and he has ministered at Monroe Street UMC since 2015; and

WHEREAS, living in Toledo for 35 years, Pastor Clark has seen the city change but sees potential ways for the city to move forward - such as capitalizing on its waterways and funding community centers; and

WHEREAS, it has been said of Pastor Clark that he “has been deeply dedicated to the well-being of the people of Toledo most of his life, . . . and there are so many examples of ways that he has served the city really faithfully in his role as a pastor and as a community organizer and a community leader;” and

WHEREAS, after retirement Pastor Clark will to continue his work on a neighborhood tool-lending library at Monroe Street and Rosedale Avenue in what was formerly a gas station, hoping to have it up and running by the summer; and he will continue to lead worship services at Monroe Street UMC through Dec. 31. Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 3613 Monroe St., Toledo; NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Pastor Larry Clark is recognized for his 35 years of dedicated ministry to the Toledo community and answering the call to feed the poor and congratulated on his upcoming retirement.

SECTION 2. That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_ : yeas \_\_\_\_\_, nays \_\_\_\_\_.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council

\_\_\_\_\_.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council