

- WHEREAS: One of Thomas's many gifts to First Parish has been his emphasis in words and deeds on Dr. King's vision of Beloved Community; and
- WHEREAS: Thomas's vision of Beloved Community has been a blessing to the community of Cambridge as well as to the First Parish community; and
- WHEREAS: To Thomas, walking together in Beloved Community encompassed leading and supporting First Parish and the Cambridge Community to stand with and for African-Americans in the continuing struggle for civil rights. It also meant supporting Central Americans in their quest for social justice in the face of horrendous violence financed by the United States, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in their struggle for full equality; and
- WHEREAS: Thomas's leadership played a key role in First Parish's emergence as a champion of equal marriage rights for same sex couples. Thomas was honored for his advocacy and support of LGBT people at the Sixteenth annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Day Celebration at Cambridge City Hall on June 10, 2006; and
- WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge has been made more just and whole through the ministry and pastoral leadership of the Reverend Dr. Thomas J.S. Mikelson; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record expressing its appreciation to the Reverend Dr. Thomas J.S. Mikelson, whose inspiring leadership has vastly improved our city and life for all within it; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record declaring Sunday, June 18, 2006 as "Thomas J.S. Mikelson Day in Cambridge;" and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Reverend Thomas Mikelson on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 5, 2006.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk



City of Cambridge

R-64.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2006

MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR TOOMEY

- WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of the Cambridge City Council that the Reverend Dr. Thomas J.S. Mikelson is retiring from his ministry at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Cambridge; and
- WHEREAS: The Reverend Dr. Mikelson, known to his large circle of colleagues, congregants, friends and acquaintances as "Thomas," has had a long and distinguished career as a minister, educator and scholar; and
- WHEREAS: Thomas began his Unitarian Universalist ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City in 1971 after having received his graduate degree in Hebrew Scriptures from the University of Chicago; during that time he also taught at the University of Iowa; and
- WHEREAS: Thomas left Iowa City in 1983 to come to Harvard Divinity School for his doctorate, which he received in 1988; and
- WHEREAS: In 1989 Thomas became the Senior Minister at First Parish in Cambridge, and during his ministry at First Parish, he also continued his association with Harvard Divinity School as John Haynes Holmes Fellow in 1984-1985, and thereafter as a Visiting Lecturer until 2002; and
- WHEREAS: Throughout his career, Thomas has been an activist in the cause of civil rights and racial understanding; he worked throughout his ministry to foster understanding between the African-American and Unitarian Universalist communities. Thomas has delivered many speeches and sermons and written extensively and eloquently on racial matters, including his doctoral thesis at the Harvard Divinity School on the life and work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Progressive National Baptist Convention honored Thomas with its Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award in 1994 and Morehouse College bestowed upon him its Martin Luther King, Jr. College of Preachers Award in March 2001 for his efforts on the pulpit and in the field; and



City of Cambridge

R-64.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2006

MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR DECKER
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR KELLEY
COUNCILLOR MURPHY
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
VICE MAYOR TOOMEY

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its appreciation and best wishes to the Reverend Thomas Mikelson and his wife Patricia Sheppard as Reverend Mikelson retires from First Parish Unitarian Church of Cambridge; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Reverend Thomas Mikelson and Patricia Sheppard on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council June 5, 2006.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

RESOLUTION #64

Appreciation and best wishes to the
Reverend Thomas Mikelson and
his wife Patricia Sheppard as
Reverend Mikelson retires from the
First Parish Universalist Church of
Cambridge.

**Mayor Reeves and entire
membership**

**In City Council
June 5, 2006**

ORDER ADOPTED