

RESOLUTION FOR BETH EL SYNAGOGUE TO HONOR OUR TIME TOGETHER

Whereas the communities of Beth El Synagogue and Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church shared space and life together from January 2018 – May 2019 while the synagogue underwent renovation;

And whereas the presence of the Torah scrolls, processed through the streets of Trinity Park and housed in our fellowship hall, added their blessing to our church with their presence and accompanied all who gathered from our community with the Word of God;

And whereas our common rootstock as families of Abraham enabled a flourishing witness in our conflicted world that unity amidst diversity is possible, is our highest calling as a human family, and is a source of deepest delight;

And whereas intelligent, engaged, and committed young people being bar- and bat-mitzvahed became exemplars of reconciled community through the dignity, enthusiasm, and grace with which they celebrated their great milestone in an unlikely sanctuary space;

And whereas the members of Beth El synagogue and Rabbi Greyber showed patience, understanding, and at times amusement with our many questions;

And whereas Rabbi Fox instructed us with the Passover feast and Rabbi Sager introduced the Torah to our children and opened our minds to the rabbinic art of reading scripture not as a problem to be solved but as a mystery to be enjoyed;

And whereas we will miss finding kippahs scattered in the strangest spaces throughout the building;

And whereas the presence of Beth El Synagogue enhanced our witness by bringing new friends through our doors, new perspectives through discussion of *Uneven Ground* with Covenant Presbyterian Church, and new stature in our neighborhood as our full parking lot each Saturday made us appear more active than we actually are;

And whereas we enjoyed the distinction of becoming perhaps the first Presbyterian Church in history to host a “What’s Not to Like?” Yiddish song festival;

And whereas our shared proximity with one another deepened our intimacy with one another as we engaged in conversations in the hallways, around book reads, in chance encounters in the community, and in serving side by side to host a fall festival with proceeds to benefit mission, including a gift made to Ar-Razzaq Islamic Center in honor of Beth El Synagogue;

And whereas the members of Beth El Synagogue generously opened their homes, beloved traditions, and hearts to our membership by hosting us for the Second Seder meal;

And whereas we got to experience the joy of putting our Christmas decorations up twice, and the richness of reclaiming our Scottish tradition through the temporary suspension of our no-alcohol policy on campus;

And whereas we shared sadness over national tragedies and expanded hope with our fellowship;

And whereas members of Beth El Synagogue returned our imperfections and accidental offenses as hosts with kindness and gracious understanding;

And whereas a friendship that started with a year of shared space will enrich our communities of faith for a lifetime;

Therefore be it resolved that the congregation of Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church sends Beth El Synagogue forth from its space with hearts overflowing with gratitude and mouths issuing praise to our God who has been more fully known to us through you, even as our church has been made more fully home to us because of you. May God bless and keep you and strengthen our ties for generations to come. May you know Trinity Avenue as your home away from home from this time forward, and may you find your way often back to our doors, which will always be open to you.

Issued on the 19th day of May 2019 by the Session of the Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church of Durham.