

ORDINANCE

Chicago Landmark Designation of Hyde Park Union Church 5600 South Woodlawn Avenue

WHEREAS, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Municipal Code of Chicago (the "Municipal Code"), Sections 2-120-620 through 690, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks (the "Commission") has determined that Hyde Park Union Church located at 5600 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, as legally described in **Exhibit 1** attached hereto (the "Building"), satisfies three (3) criteria for landmark designation as set forth in Section 2-120-620 (1), (4), and (5) of the Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Building reflects the history of the growth and development of the Hyde Park neighborhood, particularly the influence that the University of Chicago had on the area. The establishment of the university resulted in an influx of students and faculty to the neighborhood, which greatly bolstered the church's membership as many joined the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the church responsible for the Building was originally founded as the First Baptist Church of Hyde Park in 1874. The church experienced tandem growth with the secular University of Chicago, founded in 1890 by the American Baptist Education Society, due in large part to their shared Baptist origins. As a result, many of the early faculty, including the first University President William Rainey Harper, were of the Baptist faith and became active members of the church; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Building in 1906 was funded in part by business magnate John D. Rockefeller, a founder and major benefactor of the University of Chicago. Rockefeller, a member of the American Baptist Education Society, was deeply devoted to spreading Baptist ideals through education. He attributed his donation to his view that, as the nearest Baptist church to the University of Chicago, Hyde Park Union Church served an essential role by providing students and staff with moral and spiritual guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Building's 1906 sanctuary exemplifies the Richardsonian Romanesque architecture style. Its use of the style's distinctive characteristics, including heavy, rusticated stone walls, round-arched fenestration, a steep gable roof, and corner towers, imparted a sense of majesty and permanence, an appealing choice for church construction. The Richardsonian Romanesque style has had a significant influence on the history and visual character of Chicago's built environment, not only with churches but with many buildings constructed in this style in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including several current Chicago Landmarks such as the Auditorium Building and the Former Chicago Historical Society Building; and

WHEREAS, the Building's 1926 Education Wing addition was designed to blend harmoniously with the existing Richardsonian Romanesque 1906 sanctuary, while also incorporating subtly distinctive elements that display the influence of the Classical Revival style. This style was more common at the time of the Education Wing's construction and is reflected in the addition's smooth brick walls in place of rough-textured, rusticated stone, rectangular windows, and flat roofline with a dentiled, red-brick cornice; and

WHEREAS, the stained-glass windows at the Building are finely crafted works by the Tiffany, Charles J. Connick, and F. X. Zettler studios, internationally recognized creators of stained glass, each with distinctive construction techniques, use of materials, and design philosophies; and

WHEREAS, the Building's 1906 sanctuary was designed by James Gamble Rogers, a nationally renowned architect who is most well-known for his Collegiate Gothic buildings at universities such as Yale, Columbia, and Northwestern. His designs contributed to a distinct and cohesive architectural identity for these campuses that embodied tradition and gravitas; and

WHEREAS, James Gamble Rogers designed a complex of buildings for the University of Chicago's School of Education including Blaine Hall (1903; now the location of the University of Chicago Laboratory School). The selection of James Gambles Rogers as architect for the Building's 1906 sanctuary, an architect whose work was closely associated with high-prestige academic institutional buildings, further reflected and reinforced the link between Hyde Park Union Church and the University of Chicago; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 2-120-630 of the Municipal Code, the Building has a significant historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2024, the Commission adopted a resolution recommending to the City Council of the City of Chicago (the "City Council") that the Building be designated a Chicago Landmark; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are hereby adopted as the findings of the City Council.

SECTION 2. The Building is hereby designated a Chicago Landmark in accordance with Section 2-120-700 of the Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. For purposes of Sections 2-120-740 and 2-120-770 of the Municipal Code governing permit review, the significant historical and architectural features of the Building are identified as:

- All exterior elevations, including rooflines, of the building; and
- The interior of the entrance vestibules and sanctuary, including but not limited to the overall historic spatial volume and historic decorative finishes and features. Specifically excluded as significant features of the interior are the pews, the organ, and any non-historic elements including but not limited to the recreated hanging light fixtures.

SECTION 4. The Commission is hereby directed to create a suitable plaque appropriately identifying the Building as a Chicago Landmark.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. All ordinances, resolutions, motions, or orders in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its passage and approval.