

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, On November 24, 1762, the Second Church of Bolton was organized, later becoming known as **The First Congregational Church**. Reverend Ebenezer Kellogg led the congregation for over 55 years with strength and conviction; and

Whereas, In 1808, at the time of the incorporation of the Town of Vernon, the Ecclesiastical Society and the Church took the name of the new town and became the Vernon Ecclesiastical Society and the **First Congregational Church of Vernon**; and

Whereas, the devastating fire, of January 23, 1965 may have destroyed the structure but not the spirit of its members, who immediately held services the following day at Vernon Elementary School. The Congregation remained determined to rebuild, clinging to their strength as a faith community during this very difficult time; and

Whereas, less than two years later, on September 26, 1966 the new Meeting House was dedicated, reclaiming **First Congregational Church of Vernon's** place as a pillar and leader in our community at large for over 250 years; and


Whereas, in the years to follow **First Congregational Church of Vernon** rededicated itself to the mission of outreach, on a local, state, national and international stage, working on programs such as "Music at First", "Pay it Forward", Habitat for Humanity, missions abroad in Africa and South Korea, as well as countless other community based programs; and

Whereas, the **First Congregational Church** has called the Reverend Meg Watson to be the new Senior Pastor, leading them in prayer and faith beginning on January 1, 2013, opening a new chapter in a long and rich history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, George F. Apel, Mayor, together with the Vernon Town Council, on behalf of the entire Town of Vernon, congratulate the **First Congregational Church of Vernon** on their 250 years of strength, determination and most of all faith.

Signed this 18th day of November, 2012




George F. Apel, Mayor