

# Proclamation



*Bob Buckhorn, Mayor*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **The Reverend Dr. James “Jim” A. Harnish**, the beloved Senior Pastor of Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida is one such person; and

**WHEREAS**, born on March 9, 1947, Reverend Harnish grew up in Brookville, Pennsylvania along with his twin brother Jack, and he delivered newspapers as a boy and helped out in his father’s auto parts store. He attended Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1969 and his Master of Divinity in 1972, and received Honorary Doctoral Degrees from Asbury Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida in 2003 and Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Florida in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Harnish was ordained at the Florida Annual Conference in 1970, and his first pastoral appointment in 1972 was as Associate Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in DeLand, Florida, and thereafter he was called to serve as Pastor of Howe Memorial United Methodist Church, Crescent City, Florida in 1975, where he remained until appointed Organizing and Founding Pastor of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church at Windermere, Orlando, Florida in 1979, where the church experienced phenomenal growth under his leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, well-known as an asset to each congregation he pastored, Reverend Harnish was asked to bring his skills to a historic church in Tampa, Florida that was in need of a strong leader and expert guidance, and in 1992, he answered the challenge and became Senior Pastor of Hyde Park United Methodist Church, and with the establishment of the mission as a *Warm-hearted and Christ-centered Church* and motto *Making God’s Love Real*, Reverend Harnish grew this fledging church into a thriving spiritual center with a weekly attendance of 1,200 worshipers with five Sunday Services, dozens of Ministries, and the beautiful 115 year old church has been renovated and expanded under his steadfast and dedicated direction; and

**WHEREAS**, Reverend Harnish has served as a Delegate to the Southeastern Jurisdictional and General Conferences numerous times, and as a Delegate to four World Methodist Conferences, his mission work includes Kenya, South Africa and England, and he is the author of numerous books, Bible studies and articles, including *Believe in Me* (1991), *You Only Have to Die: Leading Your Congregation to New Life* (2003), *When God Comes Down* (2012), and he co-authored *A Disciple’s Path* (2012) a study guide in use at more than 4,000 congregations across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on Sunday, June 8, 2014, in recognition of his retirement after 22 years as Senior Pastor and 42 years in ministerial service, the congregation of Hyde Park United Methodist Church and members of the Tampa community will honor The Reverend James A. Harnish for his deep commitment, years of devoted service, thoughtfulness and compassion, and will show appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to the strong, vibrant church he has developed, the community he has ministered to, and all those he has inspired over the years.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 8, 2014 as

## **“THE REVEREND DR. JAMES A. HARNISH DAY”**

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his contributions to the citizens of our community and wishing him continued success, happiness, and God’s blessings in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014.



*Bob Buckhorn*  
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Mayor