

1 [Resolution to Initiate the Designation of First St. John’s Methodist Church, 1601 Larkin Street
2 as a Landmark.]

3 **Resolution initiating designation of the First St. John’s Methodist Church, 1601 Larkin**
4 **Street, located at the Northwest corner of Larkin Street and Clay Street, encompassing**
5 **all of Lot 006 in Block 620, as a Landmark pursuant to Section 1004.1 of the San**
6 **Francisco Planning Code.**

7

8 WHEREAS, The First St. John's Methodist Church located on 1601 Larkin Street was
9 built in 1911 and is the only extant California example by nationally renowned architect
10 George Washington Kramer and is a valuable example of early twentieth century church
11 architecture that combines elements of the Mission Revival and English Gothic Tudor styles;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, When the First Methodist Church congregation was founded April 25,
14 1847 by itinerant Methodist preacher Asa White, his first “church”; a shanty brought from
15 Oregon to the shores of Yerba Buena Cove, later moving to a building at 1153 Powell Street
16 in North Beach, the congregation was the first Protestant Church in California; and

17 WHEREAS, The First Methodist Church moved to a site at 1601 Larkin Street at Clay
18 Street in 1911 and later joined with St. John’s Italian Church, adopting its current name, First
19 St. John’s United Methodist Church; and,

20 WHEREAS, George Washington Kramer was well known for designing churches all
21 over the United States, including National Register of Historic Places sites in Virginia and
22 Wyoming, as well as landmark quality sites in Illinois, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, and was
23 further renowned as the author of a best-selling book published in 1897, "The What, How and
24 Why of Church Building"; and

25

1 WHEREAS, George Washington Kramer is credited as the father of an influential
2 church design, known as the “Akron Plan”, a variation on the “Pulpit in the Corner Church”
3 plan, incorporating theater style seating with curved pews, radiating aisles, and the pulpit,
4 choir, and organ in one corner of the auditorium opposite the entrance, of which the First St.
5 John’s Methodist Church at 1601 Larkin St. is an excellent example; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby initiate the
7 designation of the real property at 1601 Larkin Street, located at the Northwest corner of
8 Larkin and Clay Streets encompassing all of Lot 006, in Block 620, including the building
9 located thereon, commonly known as the First St. John’s Methodist Church, as a Landmark,
10 and so refers this resolution to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory for review pursuant to
11 Article 10 of the Planning Code and other applicable provisions of law.