



## The Interfaith Center of New York

July 9, 2009

Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney,

I am writing to you as a former Dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine where I served for 25 years. I wholeheartedly support the designation of West-Park Presbyterian Church as an Individual Landmark. It is an important and distinctive building – a beacon on the Upper West Side whose presence is felt throughout New York City.

West-Park Presbyterian Church deserves to be protected by landmark designation. We cannot risk losing this beloved, architecturally magnificent Richardsonian Romanesque building, which is actually a combination of two structures: an original 1884 chapel designed by architect Leopold Eidlitz, greatly enlarged in 1890 by the architect Henry F. Kilburn to become the glorious sacred site we know today. Its history in the community stretches back to the birth of the Upper West Side as a neighborhood, and West-Park Presbyterian deserves to remain an Upper West Side anchor for future generations. Every effort must be made to give West-Park Presbyterian Church the recognition it deserves, and I fervently hope that an Individual Landmark designation will be the first step in securing its future.

Sincerely,

The Very Reverend James Parks Morton