**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE REVEREND JERRY M. HILL, PASTOR OF MISSIONS AND OUTREACH AT BUNCOMBE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN GREENVILLE, FOR HIS SEVENTEEN YEARS OF GOSPEL MINISTRY AT BUNCOMBE STREET, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS JUNE 2017 RETIREMENT, AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is with great pleasure that the South Carolina Senate honors those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. The Reverend Jerry M. Hill, pastor of missions and outreach at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church (UMC) in Greenville, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the Gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, a California native, Jerry Hill graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara with a bachelor’s degree in English and received a master of divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1979. He served the Alston Wilkes Society as director of the Greenville halfway house and worked at Greenville Mental Health as director of homeless outreach programs. As a pastor with the Greenville District of the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, he also was appointed to pastor two historic African‑American UMCs. In May 2000, Reverend Hill began serving Buncombe Street UMC as part‑time missions and outreach director, next becoming pastor of missions and outreach at the church full‑time; and

Whereas, during Jerry Hill’s ministry with Buncombe Street, its missions program has grown substantially. As an active member of the Greenville Interfaith Hospitality Network, Buncombe Street throughout the year provides homeless families with emergency housing at the church. Buncombe Street also participates in ministry at the Triune Mercy Center and sends teams to numerous disaster sites; and

Whereas, under Jerry Hill’s leadership, Buncombe Street members provide free lunches and encouragement to homeless people each week and host a gala Banquet of Hope for residents of local homeless shelters each year. In addition, they volunteer and mentor underprivileged youth and provide free summer camp experience to children. Jerry Hill, because his heart is in caring for the homeless and less fortunate in the name of Jesus, was instrumental in establishing the first South Carolina Chapter of Circles Greenville County at Buncombe Street UMC. Circles is a nationwide campaign that teams low‑income families with community allies to carve a long‑term pathway out of poverty; and

Whereas, because he believes strongly in active participation in the community, Reverend Hill expresses that belief through membership in the Triune Mercy Center Board of Directors, ZOE Ministry, Missionary Supply Network, the South Carolina Conference Council of the UMC Board of Global Ministries, and Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (co‑chair); and

Whereas, Jerry Hill considers it one of the greatest triumphs of his life that he was able to persuade the lovely Melanie Hill to become his wife. They are the proud parents of Jay, Roger, and Alla; and

Whereas, the Senate, cognizant of his many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in expressing grateful thanks to Reverend Hill and in wishing him God’s best as he retires and continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor the Reverend Jerry M. Hill, pastor of missions and outreach at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville, for his seventeen years of Gospel ministry at Buncombe Street, congratulate him on the occasion of his June 2017 retirement, and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Reverend Jerry M. Hill.

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