**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.), IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, ON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO CELEBRATE THIS MOMENTOUS EVENT ON NOVEMBER 19, 2017.

Whereas, on Sunday, November 19, 2017, Calvary Presbyterian Church in Fairfield County will be hosting an anniversary worship service to commemorate a lengthy one hundred and fifty years of serving the community; and

Whereas, Calvary was organized in 1867, shortly after the Civil War, under the auspices of the Freedman’s Board of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Two of the early founders of Calvary were Ed Henry and Lazarus Johnson. Early trustees included Jesse P. Lyles, Charles R. Russell, and George McDill; and

Whereas, in 1869, Reverend O. Willard Richardson came to Winnsboro from Pennsylvania to fill the role of Calvary’s first full‑time pastor. That same year, Reverend Richardson established a grade school and normal institute across the street from the current location of the church. This was named the Fairfield Institute; and

Whereas, the Fairfield Institute worked to bring education to recently freed individuals. Upon describing the school, one newspaper account depicts how Reverend Richardson stressed the importance of teaching children ideas and critical thinking before learning lessons from books; and

Whereas, in 1880, the school boasted approximately two hundred students studying to become teachers and preparing to enter the ministry. Eventually, the Fairfield Institute closed and merged with Brainerd Institute in Chester after Reverend Richardson left Winnsboro. The buildings the institute occupied continued to be used by the Richardson School, a graded school that educated youth from Fairfield County, as well as surrounding counties, until the 1920s; and

Whereas, some notable people who attended the Fairfield Institute and Richardson School were: George T. Dillard, Mack G. Johnson, I. L. Purcell, Kelly Miller, Joseph W. Holley, Henry Lawrence McCrorey, A. C. Johnson, Thomas H. Ayers, Henry M. Holmes, Joseph Purcell, S. C. Thompson, Bishop W. D. Chappell, Robert L. Douglass, Hugh L. Harry, Timothy R. Veal, Edward W. Allen, Hardy Liston, Fannie Thompson, Celia Stafford, Maggie Dillard Palmer, Maggie Chappell McLeod, Lina Nettie Thompson Johnson, and Mrs. G. T. Dillard; and

Whereas, since the leadership of the Reverend Richardson, Calvary has been served by the following installed pastors: Reverends J. C. Watkins, I. D. Davis, Jacob A. Tillman, J. E. Jackson, M. A. Ward, M. J. Jackson, Elijah Gregg, M. T. Wash, A. U. Fryson, George M. Ulmer, Charles W. Talley, Robert G. Toatley, Dr. James H. Hudson, Dr. Danny C. Murphy, Sr., and Gloria J. Williams. The current pastor is Reverend Dr. Perzavia Praylow; and

Whereas, over the years, the grounds of the church have been used to host activities for children, youth, and young adults. Calvary, with the help of denominational personnel, was an early pioneer of Vacation Bible School in Fairfield County. Dances were held on church grounds for young people, a scouting program was started in the 1960s, and in 1993, a two thousand four hundred fifty square foot Christian Education Center was built. This addition allowed the church to be of greater service to the community by enabling the church to conduct K‑12 after‑school tutoring, a health fair for women, family reunions, community meetings and festivals, and to host visiting missionaries; and

Whereas, throughout the twentieth century, Calvary’s goal was to be a responsive body of believers who profess a working faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, proclaim the Good News in word and deed, and provide spiritual nourishment for all God’s people. The vision for the future is to grow a church for Jesus Christ where people join hands to helps others to the glory of God. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, honor Calvary Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in Fairfield County, on the occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary and celebrated this momentous event on November 19, 2017.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Calvary Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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