**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE MT. LEBANON BAPTIST CHURCH OF PARKSVILLE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO THE FURTHERANCE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND TO CONGRATULATE ITS MEMBERS ON THE CHURCH’S ONE HUNDRED THIRTY‑SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, founded on May 24, 1873, by the Reverend Elijah Key and the Reverend Edmond Gardenhire, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church of Parksville celebrates a rich one hundred thirty‑seven‑year history; and

Whereas, the Reverend Henry Hill served as the congregation’s first pastor, with Joe White and Josh Briggs serving the church as deacons under him; and

Whereas, in 1886, the Reverend Ben Harrison took over the pulpit, and in that same year, as the church grew, several more deacons were ordained; and

Whereas, the former church sanctuary was built in 1908 during the administration of the Reverend R.B. Hancock, and after his service C.W. Webb and G.D. Smith pastored the church during their respective tenures; and

Whereas, moving forward under the leadership of the Reverend A.W. Vincent, the church’s next pastor, the congregation raised a large sum of money for church repairs and pews. Also during that time, the Missionary Society and Usher Board were organized; and

Whereas, the next decade saw two new pastors for the church, the Reverend C. C. Middleton and the Reverend O. T. Screen. During Pastor Screen’s time with the church, a piano was purchased, and the youth choir was organized; and

Whereas, E. B. Freeman, E. B. Cooper, and E. M. Gordon were the next three pastors to lead the church. During their terms, restrooms were installed, and the Deaconess Ministry and Young Women’s Auxiliary were established; and

Whereas, the congregation saw many changes in the church in the 1990’s: Construction began on a multipurpose building, a public‑address system was installed, and the Nurses’ Guild, Beautification Club, Courtesy Club, and male choir were all founded. Further structural changes to the interior and exterior of the church were also made during that decade; and

Whereas, beautiful stained‑glass windows were installed in the church in September 2000, and in 2001 the second Sunday worship services began, with Reverend Melvin Gordon officiating; and

Whereas, following the Reverend E.M. Gordon’s retirement after more than forty years of faithful service, in 2008 the church called the Reverend W.F. Hampton as its new senior pastor; and

Whereas, among the numerous ministries of this historic church, the health and wellness ministry and the congregation’s partnership with the Golden Harvest Food Bank have been added in recent years and have proved great blessings; and

Whereas, over the rich history of this wonderful place of worship, the congregation and its pastors have served God and their fellowmen with faithfulness and in obedience to God’s commands; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to recognize Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church on its one hundred thirty‑seventh anniversary and trusts its congregation will continue to grow and thrive in the years to come. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church of Parksville for its outstanding commitment to the furtherance of the Christian faith and congratulate its members on the church’s one hundred thirty‑seventh anniversary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church of Parksville.

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