**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE GOUCHER BAPTIST CHURCH OF GAFFNEY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWO HUNDRED FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR NEARLY TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1770, Goucher Baptist Church of Gaffney is celebrating its two hundred fortieth anniversary on Sunday, October 24, 2010; and

Whereas, from the necessity of the day, the congregation started small. Worshipping under the watchful eye of a fort built for protection from Indians, the early settlers of the Gaffney area gathered under brush arbors to worship whenever a preacher came through. As the years passed, the Goucher community had a burning desire for its own permanent church; and

Whereas, by 1772, Richard Kelly was ordained as a minister and preached at Goucher on a regular basis, enabling the church to stand on its own. Even though there are no early records, it is believed a meeting house was built on property near an old Indian trading path that became Green River Road. This first meeting house was probably thirty to forty feet long and twenty‑five feet wide; and

Whereas, through the years, the church weathered good times and bad, including the hard years of the American Revolution, and as the congregation grew, increasingly larger facilities were built. Presently located on Goucher Creek Road, just off State Highway 150, the church recently completed an extensive renovation of its worship center; and

Whereas, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Goucher Baptist Church has been served by forty‑three pastors during its long history; and

Whereas, Goucher Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the community of Gaffney for nearly two and a half centuries, and with God’s grace, led by its current pastor, the Reverend Norman Gardner, will continue its proud heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Goucher Baptist Church of Gaffney on the occasion of its two hundred fortieth anniversary and commend the church for nearly two and a half centuries of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Reverend Norman Gardner on behalf of the congregation of Goucher Baptist Church.

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