**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ISRAEL METROPOLITAN CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY OF MINISTRY, AND TO WELCOME THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CAROLINA REGION CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST CHURCH.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that Israel Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will host the Carolina Region Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church during the week of July 7 through 12, 2013; and

Whereas, some seven hundred fifty participants are expected to attend, which will have a tremendous economic impact on restaurants and retail businesses in downtown Greenville; and

Whereas, in 1879, Reverend Jeremiah Wofford, the first pastor and founder of Mt. Olive Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, built a brush arbor; and in 1883, the construction of the first frame of Mt. Olive on that property was completed; and

Whereas, Israel Chapel Colored Methodist Episcopal Church became a reality when a tract of land was purchased for $490 on Birnie Street in Greenville in 1893 for the construction of a house of worship; and

Whereas, under the direction of Reverend Farmer**,** a new parsonage for Israel Chapel was erected in 1908; and

Whereas, a tract of land on North Calhoun Street was purchased for $2500 in 1916 under Reverend Langford’s leadership, and in 1920, the stucco and veneer were erected there for the newly named Israel Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and when Reverend J. A. Davis returned to lead the church from 1934 to 1938, the church’s brick work was completed; and

Whereas, by 1960, the church had adopted its present title, Israel Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and

Whereas, Brother Preston Pinson organized the Gospel Crusaders in 1948; during the late 1960s, Sister Louise Harris established thechurch library; Reverend Dr. Alex Chambers organized the Young Adult Choir in 1972; Sister Fran Davis organized the church nursery in 1975; and the Male Choir was organized in 1982; and

Whereas, among the vigorous outreach programs of the church are the Discipleship Program, the Matured Adult Outreach Ministry, children’s church, Wednesday noonday Bible study, Women’s Day Community Outreach Ministry, and Helping Hand Food Ministry; and

Whereas, numerous community and civic leaders have emerged from Israel Metropolitan CME Church, such as Reverend Rayfield Metcalf, who served the congregation from 1974 to 1982 and was the first black elected to the Greenville City Council, and Reverend Quentin H. Whitlock, who served from 1982 to 1992 and was the first black to serve on the South Carolina Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the superb compassionate work of Israel Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in the Greenville community for the last one hundred eighteen years, and they look to hear of the continued ministry of the congregation led by the current pastor, Rev. Troy Harrison. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Israel Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church for more than a century of ministry, and welcome the participants of the Carolina Region Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Bishop Thomas Hoyt, Senior Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑