**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR SENIOR BISHOP THOMAS LANIER HOYT, JR., FORTY‑EIGHTH BISHOP OF THE CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (CME) CHURCH, FOR HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED MINISTRY AND TO EXTEND TO HIM A WARM WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA AS HE CONVENES THE CAROLINA REGION CONFERENCE OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE CME CHURCH IN GREENVILLE, JULY 7-12, 2013.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that Senior Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr., will convene the Carolina Region Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Church, to be held July 7‑12, 2013, in Greenville and hosted by Israel Metropolitan CME Church; and

Whereas, a native of Alabama, Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr., was the first of two bishops elected at the 1994 CME General Conference, coming to this office as a preacher and distinguished scholar in theological education. He was assigned to the Fourth Episcopal District, and served as Chair of the Department of Lay Activities of the CME Church. Among his myriad duties, he also was Chair of the 125th CME Church Anniversary Celebration and Chair of the Commission for Women in Ministry; and

Whereas, Bishop Hoyt’s academic training is both thorough and extensive. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Lane College in Tennessee, a master’s degree in divinity from Phillips School of Theology of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, a Master of Sacred Theology from Union Theological Seminary in New York, and his doctorate from Duke University in North Carolina. He was awarded a doctorate in divinity from Trinity College and several other institutions; and

Whereas, his ministry has included pastoral service with several CME churches in North Carolina and New York and more than twenty‑five years as a professor of New Testament studies, including teaching at Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center, the School of Religion at Howard University, and Hartford Seminary where he also was Director of the Black Ministries Certificate Program; and

Whereas, in addition, Bishop Hoyt has written more than forty articles for professional journals and publications and participated in group projects resulting in published books. He also is known for his renowned 1993 lectures at the Yale Divinity School Lyman Beecher Lectures, a series comprising one of the oldest and most prestigious lectureships in the academic community; and

Whereas, the awards and honors bestowed on Bishop Hoyt are many, including a visit to Pope John Paul II with a delegation from the National Council of Churches. He served as a delegate to the World Council of Churches in Porto, Alegre, Brazil in 1987 and as CME representative at the World Council of Churches meeting on Faith and Order in Spain; and

Whereas, in 2006 he was assigned to the seventh Episcopal District comprised of twelve states. At the thirty-seventh CME General Conference in 2010 he was installed as the Senior Bishop of the CME Church and currently serves as Chair of the Department of Finance; and

Whereas, he and his beloved wife, Ocie Harriett Hoyt, have reared a fine family of two children, Doria and Thomas III, and the Hoyts are the proud grandparents of Ayanna; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives is grateful for Bishop Hoyt’s outstanding ministry, and the members appreciate his significant contributions to the spiritual welfare of this great nation’s citizenry. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor Senior Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr., forty‑eighth bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church, for his long and distinguished ministry and extend to him a warm welcome to South Carolina as he convenes the Carolina Region Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District of the CME Church in Greenville, July 7-12, 2013.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Senior Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr.

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