**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TO THE REVEREND THOMAS C. PIETILA, PASTOR OF CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND TO WISH HIM MANY MORE YEARS OF GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF HIS COMMUNITY AND STATE.

Whereas, the members of the Senate note that the Reverend Thomas C. Pietila, Pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Florence, S.C., is retiring after thirty-four years of pastoral care as a United Methodist minister; and

Whereas, born in Painesville, Ohio, Reverend Pietila received his B.A. degree from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio in 1974 and his Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School in 1976; and

Whereas, during his career he has pastored the Laurens Road United Methodist Church in Greenville from 1979-1983, the Socastee United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach from 1983-1991, the Lee Road United Methodist Church in Taylors from 1991-1995, the Woodland United Methodist Church in Rock Hill from 1995-1999, and took up his current pastorate at Central United Methodist Church in Florence in 1999; and

Whereas, he has been a member of the South Carolina Annual Conference since 1977, and he currently serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the Duke Divinity School Alumni Council, and the McLeod Hospice Advisory Board; and

Whereas, other agencies and boards he has served on include the Board of Trustees for Epworth Children’s Home, CHOICES Charter School Board, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Lighthouse Ministries Board, and the Mayor’s Faith and School Coalition; and

Whereas, Reverend Pietila and his wife, Lindy, have been married thirty-three years and have two grown children, Rebecca and Caroline, and three grandsons, Thomas, Christopher, and Caden; and

Whereas, in his free time Reverend Pietila enjoys fly fishing, reading, and kayaking; and

Whereas, it is appropriate for the members of the Senate to pause in their deliberations so that they might congratulate this distinguished man on the occasion of his retirement and express their appreciation for his work in a high and difficult calling. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the members of the Senate express congratulations and best wishes to the Reverend Thomas C. Pietila, Pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Florence, S.C. on the occasion of his retirement and wish him many more years of good health and happiness and continued service to the people of his community and State.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Reverend Thomas C. Pietila.

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