**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR BISHOP DAVID RWHYNICA DANIELS, JR., UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS INVESTITURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE GLOBAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM AS HE BEGINS HIS DUTIES AS THE LEADER OF THE CHURCH’S GOVERNING BODY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to learn that the Right Reverend David R. Daniels, Allen University alumnus and Bishop of the 14th Episcopal District in West Africa will be invested as President of the Council of Bishops of the Global African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church during the convening of the Council of Bishops in Columbia on Monday evening, June 27, 2011; and

Whereas, founded in Philadelphia, the AME church spread rapidly in the South after the Civil War, and its first overseas congregations were in Liberia and Sierra Leone; and

Whereas, Reverend Daniels was born in the small village of Topoe Town, the Bassa Tribe, in the Republic of Liberia in West Africa and attended high school at the AME Church’s Monrovia College and Industrial Training School; and

Whereas, in 1974, while still in West Africa, he accepted God’s call into the ministry, and by 1978, he had journeyed a world away to begin preparation for that ministry in Columbia, South Carolina; and

Whereas, he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree, Magna Cum Laude, in business administration from Allen University and a Master of Divinity Degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia. He studied at the University of South Carolina, and in 2002 the AME University in Monrovia, Liberia conferred upon him the Doctor of Divinity Degree; and

Whereas, in 1989, he returned to Liberia to become pastor of a church in Monrovia, the capital city, and in 2004, he was elected as the 124th bishop of the AME Church, assigned to the 14th Episcopal District which covers Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, and Togo/Benin; and

Whereas, before his 2004 election as bishop and his return to Liberia, he was Pastor of Turner Memorial AME Church in West Columbia, and previously pastor to AME churches in Newberry, Irmo, and Winnsboro, where he emphasized unity through evangelism, education, and economic empowerment; and

Whereas, when civil wars forced Bishop Daniels to flee Liberia repeatedly, he came back to Columbia, which he considers his second home and where he was guided and nurtured during his years of study; and

Whereas, together with his beloved wife, Irene, he has three fine daughters who attend Hammond School in the Palmetto State’s capital city; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are grateful for the three decades of ministry that have led to the investiture of this dynamic preacher and spiritual leader as the next president of the Council of Bishops of the Global African Methodist Episcopal Church. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor The Right Reverend David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr., upon the occasion of his investiture as president of the Council of Bishops of the Global African Methodist Episcopal Church, and congratulate him as he begins his duties as the leader of the church’s governing body.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to The Right Reverend David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.

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