**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE ST. PETER BAPTIST CHURCH OF IRMO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded on May 19, 1913, St. Peter Baptist Church of Irmo is celebrating its historic one hundredth anniversary in 2013; and

Whereas, a century ago, St. Peter Baptist Church was organized for the worship of Almighty God, operating for a time in an old house owned by Deacon Johnny Hall. The Reverend James C. Clark of Columbia, founding pastor and expert carpenter, did most of the building of the new church and served the congregation for three years; and

Whereas, the fledgling church began with seventeen members, most of whom were former members of the historic Macedonia Baptist Church of Irmo, established in 1882; and

Whereas, the founding deacons purchased three acres of land from Mattie Lorick. Of those acres, two were given to Richland County to be used as the site for a Rosenwald School; and

Whereas, after wind damage destroyed the church’s first building, a new structure was erected in January 1930, the work being completed under the aegis of Reverend L.B.S. Golden; and

Whereas, in April 1970, fifty‑seven years after the founding of the church, the membership elected its first female officers to the board of trustees, and the church took on new life; and

Whereas, in 1969 and 1970, the church building was enlarged, with the resulting extension assisting the ministry and outreach of the church; and

Whereas, in 1997, Bishop Odell Sims, then in the fourth year of his pastorate at St. Peter, had a vision for a new sanctuary. Under his leadership and through God’s blessing, a new facility was erected, with construction taking place from 2000 to 2001. The congregation began worship in its new sanctuary in January 2002; and

Whereas, its membership having grown to more than three hundred, St. Peter will celebrate its centennial anniversary on June 9, 2013; and

Whereas, as part of its service to the Lord, St. Peter Baptist Church offers adult, youth, music, missionary, community, and student ministries. It broadcasts its services online every Sunday morning and also offers a weekly Bible study; and

Whereas, standing on the faith and strength of its early pastors and members, St. Peter Baptist Church’s present congregation “presses toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14), continuing to preach and teach the Word of God; and

Whereas, St. Peter Baptist Church has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in the Irmo area for one hundred years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate St. Peter Baptist Church of Irmo on the occasion of its historic one hundredth anniversary and commend the church for a century of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Bishop Odell Sims for St. Peter Baptist Church.

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