**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE TEMPLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY, TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CHURCH FOR ITS DEEP HERITAGE IN THE COLUMBIA COMMUNITY, AND TO COMMEND ITS LEADERSHIP AND CONGREGATION FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Temple Zion Baptist Church as it celebrates this important milestone on Sunday, April 26, 2020; and

Whereas, Temple Zion Baptist Church was founded in 1905, and its initial services were held in a brush arbor. The original church structure was completed in 1916 on land donated by church member William Hatten. Reverend T. Bailey served as its first pastor; and

Whereas, over the past one hundred fifteen years, the church’s membership and ministries have grown to serve individuals locally, nationally, and internationally; and

Whereas, in service to its membership and local community, Temple Zion Baptist Church has implemented a wide range of ministries, including its Financial Stewardship and Empowerment Ministry, Computer Technology Training Center, Brotherhood Ministry, Nurses Healthcare Ministry, Nursery, Hospitality Ministry, Soup Kitchen, Seniors Ministry, Agape Link Newsletter, Transportation Ministry, Audio and Tape Ministry, 3rd Sunday Youth Day and Thursday Noon Day Bible Study, Singles Ministry, Couples Ministry, Youth Ministry and New Members Orientation, Annual Family, Friends, and Community Celebration, Treating Our Public Servants Ministry, community garden, weekly Bible Clubs for non-churched, community youth, enhanced online broadcast of church services, and digital marquee; and

Whereas, Temple Zion Baptist Church has served the national community through joint missions in Michigan and through missionaries stationed there; and

Whereas, Temple Zion Baptist Church has served the international community with a number of missions to the Dominican Republic, and it currently has missionaries stationed in Southeast Asia, where the church is involved in a ministry to provide prosthetic legs to amputees; and

Whereas, the church currently flourishes under the leadership of its senior pastor, Andre T. Melvin, and assistant pastor, Jonathan Glenn. Pastor Melvin also serves as a board member for the Midlands Coalition of Churches, as organizer and leader of the North Monticello Leadership Coalition, and as staff at Columbia International University, where he is the director of the statewide Prison Ministry Program; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the ministry of Temple Zion Baptist Church and its service to the Columbia community and the State of South Carolina. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, congratulate Temple Zion Baptist Church upon the occasion of its one hundred fifteenth anniversary, recognize and honor the church for its deep heritage in the Columbia community, and commend its leadership and congregation for their many years of service to this community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Temple Zion Baptist Church.

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