**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY, TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CHURCH FOR ITS DEEP HERITAGE IN THE WEST 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 Grace Baptist Church as it celebrates this important milestone with a special service on Sunday, March 15, 2020; and

Whereas, Grace Baptist Church was founded on December 16, 1960 by a handful of godly men and dedicated Christians who were led to establish a solid, Bible‑preaching, missionary‑minded, Christ‑centered Baptist church in West Columbia; and

Whereas, over the last sixty years, the church has been served by six full‑time senior pastors. Its first pastor was Rev. Moody Roberts, and its most recent pastor, Dr. Bill Egerdahl, retired in January 2020. Grace Baptist currently has three assistant pastors: Dr. David Smith, Pastor Brandon Allen, and Pastor Chris Martin. Pastor Jacinto Aguilar also serves as the pastor of Grace Baptist’s Hispanic Church; and

Whereas, Grace Baptist Church currently has eight hundred active members; and

Whereas, today, the church sits on approximately thirteen acres of land and offers a Family Life Center, athletic fields, a new auditorium, and Grace Day Care and Christian School, which currently has two hundred fifty students enrolled; and

Whereas, Grace Baptist Church supports over one hundred twenty-five missionaries and missions organizations worldwide and hosts a yearly missions conference. The church has an active bus ministry, prison ministry, and Awana program for children, and it hosts community events such as Patriotic Sunday, revival services, a Beat the Heat Sunday in July, vacation Bible school, a fall festival, and an annual Christmas cantata and children’s program; and

Whereas, Grace Baptist Church has a strong foundation, a rich history, and a bright future; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate greatly appreciate the ministry of Grace Baptist Church and its service to the West 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 Grace Baptist Church upon the occasion of its sixtieth anniversary, recognize and honor the church for its deep heritage in the West 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 Grace Baptist Church.

‑‑‑‑XX‑‑‑‑