**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE GOUCHER BAPTIST CHURCH OF GAFFNEY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWO HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR NEARLY TWO AND A HALF CENTURIES OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina Senate are pleased to recognize Goucher Baptist Church of Gaffney as it celebrates its two hundred fiftieth anniversary on Sunday, October 25, 2020; and

Whereas, founded in 1770, the congregation began small. Under the watchful eye of Fort Thicketty, which was built for protection from Indians, the early settlers of the Greater Grindal Shoals area first gathered to worship under brush arbors whenever a preacher visited. As the years passed, the Goucher community developed a burning desire for its own permanent church; and

Whereas, by 1772, Richard Kelly was ordained as a minister and preached on a regular basis, enabling the church to stand on its own. Even though no early records exist, it is believed that, after moving from the William Marchbanks‑William Sims Meeting House on State Highway 18, a meeting house was built on property near an old Indian trading path that became Green River Road. This second meeting house was probably thirty to forty feet long and twenty‑five feet wide; and

Whereas, through the years, the church weathered good times and bad, including the hard years of the American Revolutionary War, and as the congregation grew, increasingly larger facilities were built. Presently, the church is located on Goucher Creek Road just off State Highway 150; and

Whereas, affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, Goucher Baptist Church has been served by forty‑six pastors during its long history. It is currently led by interim pastor, Reverend Dennis Spencer; and

Whereas, Goucher Baptist Church has been a beacon of light in the community of Gaffney for nearly two and a half centuries and, with God’s grace, will continue its proud heritage in many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognize Goucher Baptist Church of Gaffney on the occasion of its two hundred fiftieth anniversary and commend the church for nearly two and a half centuries of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Goucher Baptist Church and Reverend Dennis Spencer.

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