**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR THE RICH HISTORY OF THE OLD CLIO METHODIST CHURCH LOCATED IN CLIO, SOUTH CAROLINA, AND TO CELEBRATE THE NEARLY TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE.

Whereas, the Old Clio Methodist Church in Clio, South Carolina, is one of those structures that has seen the passage of time, and with it, has itself undergone many changes. In 1827, the people of the Pee Dee area who wished to gather to worship were restricted to the services of a Methodist circuit rider who would stop at specified junctures to preach the Word. The circuit rider covered an area, which included eight hundred twenty members; and

Whereas, in 1835, the inhabitants of this area built a meeting house, most likely their first. One hundred thirty‑one acres were purchased for the occasion. Soon after, all but one and one‑fifth acre, including the newly‑erected meeting house were sold, creating the plot on which the church stands today. Records indicate these transactions and construction occurred somewhere between September 12 and October 16, 1835; and

Whereas, the meeting house was an open area filled with backless benches, inviting all Methodists in the area to worship. It is not known how long this building was used or how many buildings have stood in the area. What is known is that in 1866 an arsonist burnt down the church located on the site. It is highly possible that the church that stands there today is the same one that was built to replace the incinerated one; and

Whereas, at some point during or after the Civil War, the African‑American members of the church elected to worship elsewhere. Where this newly formed congregation relocated is unknown; and

Whereas, the white congregation that had remained at the original site under the name of Trinity United Methodist Church relocated to its present‑day location. The former church was sold to the African‑American members who had left to form their own church, and on January 31, 1887, the title of the building and grounds were conveyed to Thomas Green, Stephen McLeod, James Neely, and James D. McRae, the trustees for Old Clio United Methodist Church. The sale was completed at the price of three hundred dollars; and

Whereas, nearly a century and a half have passed since that time and still the descendants of those church members of 1887 worship in the Old Clio Church, one of Marlboro County’s most historic buildings. Today the congregation is led by Reverend Wade Wyatt, Sr.; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciate the interesting history that has shaped our beautiful State and are pleased to recognize one of South Carolina’s oldest churches, hoping to hear of many more years of worship to His glory. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, honor the rich history of the Old Clio Methodist Church located in Clio, South Carolina, and celebrate the nearly two hundred years of its existence.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Old Clio United Methodist Church.

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