**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE TEMPLE ZION BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHLAND COUNTY 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 MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to express their congratulations to the congregation of Temple Zion Baptist Church for the significant celebration of its one hundred fifteenth anniversary on Sunday, April 26, 2020; and

Whereas, founded in 1905, Temple Zion Baptist Church held initial services in a brush arbor with Reverend T. Bailey serving as the first pastor to the nascent congregation. In 1916, the original church structure was completed on land donated by church member William Hatten; 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; 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, through joint missions in Michigan and through missionaries stationed there, Temple Zion Baptist Church has served the national community; and

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

Whereas, under the leadership of the current senior pastor, Andre T. Melvin, and assistant pastor, Jonathan Glenn, the church has flourished. 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 on staff at Columbia International University, where he serves as the director of the statewide Prison Ministry Program; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives greatly appreciate the ministry of Temple Zion Baptist Church and its considerable service to the Columbia community and to the State of South Carolina as the congregation celebrates this remarkable milestone. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Temple Zion Baptist Church of Richland County 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 many years of service to the community.

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

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