**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS THE PROFOUND SORROW OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SENATE UPON THE PASSING OF BISHOP MILDRED B. “BONNIE” HINES, THE 98TH BISHOP IN SUCCESSION OF THE AME ZION CHURCH; TO CELEBRATE HER LIFE; AND TO EXTEND THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND MANY FRIENDS.

Whereas, the South Carolina Senate was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop Mildred B. “Bonnie” Hines, the 98th bishop in succession of the AME Zion Church, who went home to be with her Lord on May 23, 2022, at the age of sixty‑seven; and

Whereas, elected and consecrated in Atlanta, Georgia, at the denomination’s 48th General Conference in 2008, she is the first and only woman elected to the church’s highest office in its history of more than 225 years, which dates back to 1796. A native of Mount Airy, North Carolina, Bishop Hines served in every capacity with diligence and excellence; and

Whereas, Bishop Hines was formally educated in the public schools of Surry County, North Carolina. Having received an academic and athletic scholarship, she earned her bachelor’s degree from Mars Hill College in North Carolina, followed by a master’s degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Further, she studied clinical pastoral counseling at Colgate Rochester School of Divinity in New York and earned a Doctor of Ministry from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta; and

Whereas, the Reverend Doctor Anthony Witherspoon, president of the International Ministers and Lay Association, remembered Bishop Hines with these words: “Zion has lost a giant who is leaving an indelible legacy that changed the trajectory of our church denomination”; and

Whereas, once a buyer for Belk Department Stores, she said an illness forced her to leave the fashion world behind. Bishop Hines pastored First AME Zion Church in Los Angeles, California, prior to her election to the episcopacy. Previous pastoral assignments include Walls Memorial AME Zion Church, Charlotte, North Carolina; Saint Peter’s Tabernacle AME Zion Church, Gastonia, North Carolina; and Waddell Chapel AME Zion Church, Shelby, North Carolina; and

Whereas, she served as bishop of the Western West Africa Episcopal District and later was assigned to serve the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which includes churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee. After the sudden death of Bishop Roy Holmes in May 2013, the New England and the Bahamas Islands Conferences of the North Eastern Episcopal District were added to her supervision. Most recently, she served the South Atlantic Episcopal District, which includes churches in South Carolina and Georgia; and

Whereas, Bishop Hines was also board chair for the trustees of Clinton College in Rock Hill, South Carolina, as well as a member of the board of trustees of Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina; and

Whereas, fondly remembered for her style, intellect, wisdom, and grace, Bishop Hines leaves to cherish her memory a host of family members, friends, and colleagues. This faithful servant of the Lord will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express their profound sorrow upon the passing of Bishop Mildred B. “Bonnie” Hines, the 98th bishop in succession of the AME Zion Church; celebrate her life; and extend the deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Bishop Mildred B. “Bonnie” Hines.

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