**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE THE PASTOR AND CONGREGATION OF ST. PETER AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CALHOUN COUNTY, UPON THE DEDICATION OF THEIR NEW SANCTUARY.

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives is pleased to learn that St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church will dedicate a new sanctuary in which the congregation will worship; and

Whereas, groundbreaking for the new sanctuary took place in March 2019 for the church that had been founded in 1880 when five former slaves purchased land for eight dollars for a place of worship, land which was part of Orangeburg County; and

Whereas, the believers began meeting in a humble bush harbor and realized the dream of having their own sanctuary under their second pastor, Reverend W. M. McDuffie, in 1906 on land donated by Professor Andrew H. Black and his wife, Cora B. Black; and

Whereas, a parsonage and a school were built next to the original sanctuary, the latter serving as the first school for African American children in Calhoun County; and

Whereas, St. Peter AME Church has continued for more than one hundred forty years, adding educational buildings and a new parsonage, along with brick veneer and modernizations to the original sanctuary. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate the pastor and congregation of St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church in Calhoun County, upon the dedication of their new sanctuary.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Reverend Larry J. Nelson, pastor of St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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