

By: Holland, Ford, Scott (17th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST
2 CHURCH OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI, ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 WHEREAS, the First United Methodist Church of Tupelo,
4 Mississippi, the oldest church building in Tupelo and the oldest
5 brick structure of any kind in the city, was officially organized
6 in 1867, the year that Tupelo was incorporated, and met for three
7 years in a frame building which it shared with a Baptist
8 congregation; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1870, a small white frame church was built which
10 served the congregation for thirty years; and, in 1890, Reverend
11 N. G. Augustus was appointed full-time pastor; and

12 WHEREAS, by the mid-1890's, the church needed a larger
13 building to accommodate the growing congregation; and, in 1898,
14 the present property on Main Street was acquired from Thomas J.
15 Babb for \$1,000.00 and paid for with a sack of gold coins; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1898, a building contract was negotiated with Mr.
17 John Stinson of Columbus to build a new church at a cost of
18 \$4,900.00, and the church was officially dedicated on October 3,
19 1903, in a service conducted by Bishop Warren A. Candler of
20 Atlanta; and

21 WHEREAS, following a recent renovation, an official of the

22 Mississippi Department of Archives and History stated that the
23 First United Methodist Church of Tupelo was the best example of a
24 church renovation which was faithful to its original structure
25 that he had ever seen, and the congregation was justifiably proud
26 when the church building was named to the National Registry of
27 Historic Places; and

28 WHEREAS, for one hundred years the church's twenty-nine
29 pastors have proclaimed the Gospel of God's grace over ten
30 thousand times from the pulpit of this church building and have
31 rejoiced in hearing the enthusiastic voices of its members sing
32 the great hymns of faith; and

33 WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Goodpastor, the present senior minister,
34 and the seventeen hundred members of the First United Methodist
35 Church of Tupelo, are proud to have preserved the church's past as
36 represented in this historic building. But they are even more
37 pleased to be entrusted with the continuing work of the Kingdom of
38 God as they faithfully face the church's future in a growing and
39 vibrant community; "Rise up, ye saints of God, have done with
40 lesser things; give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve
41 the King of Kings!"; and

42 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize and
43 commend excellence, especially when evidenced by the faithful
44 devotion of Mississippians united together in their Christian
45 beliefs and traditions through 100 years of growth and prosperity:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
48 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the First
49 United Methodist Church of Tupelo, Mississippi, on the celebration
50 of its 100th anniversary and extend our heartiest wishes to the
51 church and its parishioners for many more years of spiritual
52 growth and success.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
54 furnished to the First United Methodist Church of Tupelo and the
55 Capitol Press Corps.