

By: Representative Mims

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 FERNWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF ITS CENTENNIAL
3 ANNIVERSARY, CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE.

4 WHEREAS, Fernwood Baptist Church, which began its journey,
5 "Standing on the Promises," on Sunday, May 19, 1907, when 15
6 people met at the old Fernwood School and entered into a covenant
7 with "God and each other" to form a Baptist church for the
8 Fernwood Community, will celebrate its 100th anniversary this
9 year; and

10 WHEREAS, in July 1908, a building program was begun and by
11 September 1st of that year, \$3,000.00 had been raised towards the
12 building of the church, when Fernwood Lumber Company donated the
13 land and matched dollar for dollar the contributions of church
14 members, allowing the edifice, a one-room structure, to be ready
15 for Sunday service by December 1, 1908; and

16 WHEREAS, for more than 17 years the church continued to grow
17 and serve a growing vibrant community, when disaster struck in
18 March 1927, upon the closing of the operation of Fernwood Lumber
19 Company, causing an economic depression in the Fernwood Community,
20 which had a severe impact upon Fernwood Baptist Church, forcing
21 the local postmaster to become a door-to-door solicitor of funds
22 to pay the church's utility bill; and

23 WHEREAS, in a meeting held on November 6, 1927, to determine
24 the fate of the church, the members, with an unshakable faith,
25 voted to keep the church doors open until the end of the year; and

26 WHEREAS, during the Great Depression hardships continued, but
27 with the enduring faith that God would provide for his people,

28 Fernwood Baptist Church began a building program, and in 1934,
29 under the leadership of Dr. J.R. Carter, construction was
30 completed on a new Sunday School room annex, furnace and
31 baptistery; and

32 WHEREAS, from the late 1940s until 1961, the church was led
33 by Brother W.W. Tipton, a time during which a new organ and piano
34 were purchased, and saw the addition of new Sunday School rooms
35 with nursery and other annexations; and

36 WHEREAS, from 1974 until 1979, Fernwood Baptist Church was
37 led by a true man of God, Houston Phiffer Porter, whose love,
38 warmth and vigor infused the church with a renewed spiritual
39 vitality, and whose leadership oversaw the remodeling of the
40 pastor's home, the bricking of the church and the placement of a
41 new steeple; and

42 WHEREAS, in 1986, under the leadership of Brother Wright
43 Eavenson, the construction of a fellowship hall and educational
44 facility was begun, and dedicated in 1989; and

45 WHEREAS, currently under the leadership of Pastor J. Frank
46 Smith, Fernwood Baptist Church continues its journey reaching
47 souls for the Lord Jesus Christ and continues structural
48 improvements, including new windows, light fixtures and parking
49 arrangements; and

50 WHEREAS, with excitement, humility and awe, Fernwood Baptist
51 Church looks back upon its past achievements, and with sincere
52 thankfulness acknowledges God's grace and love, which brought them
53 through many tragedies and have given them triumphant victory; and

54 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
55 outstanding and contributory religious institutions such as
56 Fernwood Baptist Church, which continues to be a vital part of the
57 Fernwood Community:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
60 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the diligence

61 of the pastors and members of Fernwood Baptist Church upon the
62 occasion of the church's 100th year anniversary and extend warmest
63 wishes for continued prosperity, spiritual growth and success.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Fernwood Baptist Church and to the members of the
66 Capitol Press Corps.