

By: Representatives Chism, Smith

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 DILIGENCE, SERVICE AND WIDE INFLUENCE OF THE PASTORS AND MEMBERS
3 OF MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH'S
4 HISTORIC 175TH ANNIVERSARY.

5 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, originally known as Mt.
6 Zion United Baptist Church of Christ, celebrates the splendid
7 occasion of its 175th church anniversary on April 15, 2018,
8 acknowledging 175 years of spiritual excellence and devotion; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1840, the original members of Mt. Zion United
10 Baptist Church of Christ met in their homes, but soon realized
11 they needed an official meeting place, so they chose a location
12 and erected a one-room building, big enough to hold the original
13 20 members; and

14 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion became a "real" church in the spring of
15 1843, when the church petitioned the Columbus Association for
16 membership and their petition was accepted, but just a few years
17 later, the Civil War raged, so no services were held from 1860
18 until 1870; and



19 WHEREAS, when services resumed in 1870, they were held on the
20 third Sunday of the month, but by 1890, due to the sparse
21 population in the area and transportation issues, the membership
22 of Mt. Zion had dwindled to just five souls, so the church closed
23 its doors until 1920; and

24 WHEREAS, the end of World War I not only brought the roaring
25 20s but also new pilgrimage to Mt. Zion's community, so the church
26 was repaired and the first service in 30 years was preached by
27 Reverend J.F. Sansing, who came to preach once a month; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1929, W.A. Corr gave two acres of land for a
29 cemetery and the church purchased additional land for a new
30 building, which was built out of logs not far from the location of
31 the current building, and the first service in the new church took
32 place on February 25, 1933, under the tutelage of Brother Sansing;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, the first prayer meeting was held in 1940, and from
35 that point forward, the church decided to hold a prayer meeting
36 once a week, and during the 1950s, a pastor's home, Sunday School
37 rooms, a basement and a small kitchen were built; and

38 WHEREAS, during the 1970s, the church expanded greatly,
39 building a new auditorium, fellowship hall, kitchen, and storage
40 room, as well as calling its first Minister of Music and Youth;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion has continued to make additions and
43 renovations in order to provide an ornate, efficient structure



44 that is fully equipped to serve the needs of its ever-growing
45 membership, and in 1985, the church adopted a constitution, which
46 affirmed the sound doctrines of faith in God that marked the roots
47 it established many eons ago; and

48 WHEREAS, throughout the church's history, it has worshipped
49 and served the Lord under the illustrious guidance of many devout
50 pastors, but while the community, the congregation and even the
51 landscape may have changed in the past 175 years, the message of
52 love and mercy taught from the good book has remained the same;
53 and

54 WHEREAS, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been a valued and
55 trusted institution in the community since its inception 175 years
56 ago, withstanding the ever-changing dynamics surrounding it by
57 being firmly rooted and grounded in its biblical principles, and
58 it has continued in the longstanding tradition of empowering
59 countless families and others through the preaching and teaching
60 of the gospel; and

61 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
62 and commend outstanding and contributory religious institutions
63 such as Mt. Zion Baptist Church, which remains a cornerstone of
64 its community as it strives continuously to promote the spread and
65 growth of the Christian faith:

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



69 service and wide influence of the pastors and members of Mt. Zion
70 Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's historic 175th
71 anniversary and extend warmest wishes for continued prosperity,
72 spiritual growth and success.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to the pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and to the
75 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

