

By: Representative Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 DILIGENCE, SERVICE AND WIDE INFLUENCE OF THE PASTORS AND MEMBERS
3 OF LOCUST GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE
4 CHURCH'S HISTORIC 150TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

5 WHEREAS, Locust Grove Missionary Baptist Church, a historic
6 foundation established in Greenwood, Mississippi, will celebrate
7 the splendid occasion of its sesquicentennial church anniversary
8 on September 9, 2018, acknowledging 150 years of spiritual
9 excellence and devotion; and

10 WHEREAS, Locust Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which has
11 the noble distinction of being the oldest African-American church
12 in Greenwood, Mississippi, as well as for never splitting its
13 membership, was organized under the leadership of Reverend Pete
14 Green in 1868; and

15 WHEREAS, the original church site for Locust Grove was on
16 Carrollton Avenue, which is now where Eastside Grocery is located,
17 and at the time, the area only had woods and locust trees and as a
18 result, the church was named Locust Grove; and



19 WHEREAS, in 1926, the original church building was torn down
20 and was rebuilt under the leadership of Reverend Payne, and during
21 that time, the deacons were Charlie Warren, Issac Armstrong,
22 Charlie Harris and John Smith, and the women of the missionary
23 society were Sarah Armstrong, Beatrice Sykes Bell, Annie Bell
24 Staniel, Mary Ella Warren and Ethel Brownlow; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1950, under the leadership of Reverend A.B.
26 Woods, a patient and wise man of God, Locust Grove was moved to
27 1209 Broad Street, a task that took over a year; and

28 WHEREAS, on October 14, 1951, the pastor and members of
29 Locust Grove officially entered the new church, and the old church
30 was sold to Greenwood Church of God on May 21, 1951, for the cash
31 amount of \$3,500; and

32 WHEREAS, on December 12, 1952, the members voted to have two
33 regular day services on the second and fourth Sunday beginning in
34 January 1953; and

35 WHEREAS, Reverend Woods, who in addition to being the pastor
36 of Locust Grove, was also the outstanding moderator for the
37 Grenada District Association, and he was instrumental in bringing
38 the late Reverend J.M. Kimble, who served as pastor of McKinney
39 Chapel for several years, to Greenwood, Mississippi; and

40 WHEREAS, while under the leadership of Reverend Woods, the
41 deacons of Locust Grove were as follows: Issac Armstrong, C.B.
42 Brownlow, David Wooden, Sr., Willie Holland, C.B. Blackmon, T.J.
43 Granderson, Q.B. Shelton, Richard Staniel and Henry Warren; and



44 WHEREAS, also under the leadership of Reverend Woods were the
45 superintendents C.B. Blackmon and Willie Holland, the blackboard
46 demonstrators Linberg Moore and Issac Armstrong who was also the
47 director of the Baptist Training Union, which met every Sunday at
48 5:00 p.m.; and

49 WHEREAS, after the passing of Reverend Woods, who was a
50 devout and skillful leader of Locust Grove for many years, the
51 Reverend G.H. Hankins of Hollandale, Mississippi, successfully led
52 the church until February 14, 1965; and

53 WHEREAS, on May 9, 1965, a zealous, vibrant and spirit-filled
54 young man named Reverend R.L. Williams became pastor of Locust
55 Grove, and under his leadership, the church purchased new pews and
56 a new piano, and the church had live broadcasts every second and
57 fourth Sunday, which enabled the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be
58 shared through the airwaves; and

59 WHEREAS, also under the leadership of Reverend Williams, the
60 Childs and Williams Community Choir was organized at Locust Grove
61 by Reverend Williams and Reverend Childs, which helped uplift the
62 name of the Lord through song; and

63 WHEREAS, in addition to meeting the spiritual needs of the
64 church, in 1966 Locust Grove opened its doors to Friends of
65 Children Head Start Association and approximately 100 children
66 received educational services, which demonstrated the church's
67 true concern and love for the surrounding community and its
68 precious youth; and



69 WHEREAS, after making vast contributions at Locust Grove,
70 Reverend Williams offered his resignation on January 12, 1970, and
71 on August 9, 1970, the Lord supplied a ram in the bush by
72 providing Reverend M.C. Tardy of Sunflower, Mississippi, as the
73 next capable pastor of the church; and

74 WHEREAS, after over a decade of God-led service by Reverend
75 Tardy, who was known for his humble and obedient spirit, the Lord
76 called Reverend Tardy from labor to reward on November 12, 1982;
77 and

78 WHEREAS, in February 1983, God provided yet another ram in
79 the bush for Locust Grove when Reverend M.B. Lewis, a young man
80 from Schalter, Mississippi, became pastor of the church; and

81 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Reverend Lewis, the
82 membership of Locust Grove grew tremendously and there were
83 several improvements made to the church, such as the installation
84 of central air and heat, the covering of the pews, the purchasing
85 of a van, new choir robes, a computer, a baby grand piano, the
86 installation of ceiling fans and the addition of a fellowship hall
87 to the church; and

88 WHEREAS, in September 2006, the present pastor of Locust
89 Grove, Pastor William E. Morris, became the shepherd for the flock
90 of Locust Grove, and he continues to share the Gospel of Jesus
91 Christ while simultaneously and effectively meeting the spiritual
92 needs of the congregation; and



93 WHEREAS, under the leadership and vision of Pastor William E.
94 Morris, Pastor Morris and members of the Board of Trustees
95 purchased a new place of worship on December 31, 2013, located on
96 a 9.72 acre tract located at 3951 Highway 82 East, Greenwood,
97 Mississippi; and

98 WHEREAS, Locust Grove Missionary Baptist Church had its
99 ribbon cutting ceremony and first church services on February 2,
100 2014, and its dedicatory celebration worship services in its new
101 church home were held on March 9, 2014; and

102 WHEREAS, through the vision, wisdom and spiritual leadership
103 of Pastor Morris, Locust Grove Missionary Baptist Church is
104 undoubtedly destined to do great things as its story continues to
105 unfold; and

106 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize a
107 great and historical religious institution such as Locust Grove
108 Missionary Baptist Church of Greenwood, Mississippi, whose vision
109 and motto of "Unity-Harmony-Alliance-Cooperation-Collaboration-
110 Faith in Jesus Christ" has not only positively influenced the
111 church but also the surrounding community:

112 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
113 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
114 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the diligence
115 of the pastors and members of Locust Grove Missionary Baptist
116 Church upon the special occasion of the church's 150th anniversary



117 and extend best wishes for continued prosperity, spiritual growth
118 and success.

119 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
120 furnished to Pastor William E. Morris of Locust Grove Missionary
121 Baptist Church and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

