

By: Representative Holloway

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 DILIGENCE, SERVICE AND WIDE INFLUENCE OF THE PASTORS AND MEMBERS  
3 OF SALEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHURCH'S  
4 HISTORIC 157TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

5 WHEREAS, Salem Missionary Baptist Church, one of the oldest  
6 African-American churches established in Terry, Mississippi,  
7 celebrates the splendid occasion of its 157th church anniversary,  
8 acknowledging 157 years of spiritual excellence and devotion; and

9 WHEREAS, the church was organized in 1865, a few years after  
10 the Emancipation Proclamation was passed, and it was initiated by  
11 a band of Christians who felt the need to collectively worship as  
12 well as offer thanksgiving and praise to God and service to their  
13 fellowman; and

14 WHEREAS, one acre of land was donated by the Lillie family to  
15 build an actual sanctuary and the visionary members purchased an  
16 additional acre, and Reverend Henry Willis was appointed as  
17 Salem's first pastor and was very instrumental in the church's  
18 inception, as a small wooden structure served as the place of  
19 worship; and



20 WHEREAS, throughout the church's long and storied history, it  
21 has worshipped and served the Lord under the illustrious guidance  
22 of many devout pastors, but with the coming of each new devout  
23 leader, the Christian message and the members' eagerness to learn  
24 and worship the perfect gospel has always remained steadfast; and

25 WHEREAS, the first choir at Salem Missionary Baptist Church  
26 was organized in 1899 by Brother J.R.E. Smith, who served as  
27 director, and in 1956, Mother Josie Mae Harris organized the Young  
28 People's Choir and served as president for 19 years, and her  
29 daughter, Shirley Mae Jones, served as pianist/organizer for 38  
30 years and organized the Male Chorus in October 1969; and

31 WHEREAS, from 1927 through 1964, under the leadership of  
32 Reverend E.G. Robinson, the congregation constructed a new stone  
33 church and installed pews, and in 1965, under the leadership of  
34 Reverend Wroten McQuirter, bricks were added to the church's stone  
35 structure, and additional pews, new carpet and an air conditioner  
36 were installed; and

37 WHEREAS, on August 10, 2009, Salem Missionary Baptist Church  
38 was destroyed by fire, leaving only the fellowship hall intact,  
39 but in 2010, a new sanctuary was constructed at the current  
40 location while Sunday School, worship service, and Bible study  
41 remained at the fellowship hall; and

42 WHEREAS, on September 25, 2011, the new sanctuary was  
43 dedicated as Salem's new house of worship, and in August 2012,  
44 JoAnn Lawrence donated an acre of land for burial ground and the



45 church purchased an additional acre, and in May 2017, another 15  
46 acres was purchased for additional expansion; and

47 WHEREAS, the evangelism ministry was initiated in September  
48 2012, the prayer ministry in January 2013, and in January 2016, a  
49 midday Wednesday Bible study was added in addition to the evening  
50 Bible study, and in 2013 and 2014, high quality audio and sound  
51 equipment as well as a security system with cameras were added;  
52 and

53 WHEREAS, Dr. Timothy P. Plummer was appointed as interim  
54 pastor in February 2020, the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and  
55 elected to serve as pastor in September 2021, and during these  
56 unprecedented times, several services were moved to a  
57 teleconference platform in order to continue serving the needs of  
58 the congregation; and

59 WHEREAS, before becoming pastor of Salem Missionary Baptist  
60 Church, Dr. Plummer, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, graduated  
61 from the University of Florida with a bachelor's in business  
62 administration and from the New Foundation Theological Seminary  
63 with a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree in theology, and  
64 after being baptized at the Second Missionary Baptist Church in  
65 Jacksonville, Dr. Plummer accepted his calling to the ministry at  
66 Belmont Missionary Baptist Church and was licensed under the  
67 leadership of Pastor Toney L. Crisler in May 2016; and

68 WHEREAS, while the community, the congregation and even the  
69 landscape have transformed in the past 157 years, Salem Missionary



70 Baptist Church has maintained an urgent devotion to keep the great  
71 commandment, fulfill the great commission and practice the Golden  
72 Rule; and

73 WHEREAS, Salem Missionary Baptist Church has been a valued  
74 and trusted institution in the Terry community since its inception  
75 157 years ago, withstanding the ever-changing dynamics surrounding  
76 it by being firmly rooted and grounded in its biblical principles,  
77 and it has continued in the longstanding tradition of empowering  
78 countless families and others through the teachings of the  
79 fulfillment of the gospel; and

80 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
81 and commend outstanding and contributory religious institutions  
82 such as Salem Missionary Baptist Church, which remains a  
83 cornerstone of the Terry community as it strives continuously to  
84 promote the spread and growth of the Christian faith:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
86 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
87 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the diligence,  
88 service and wide influence of the pastors and members of Salem  
89 Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's historic  
90 157th year anniversary and extend warmest wishes for continued  
91 prosperity, spiritual growth and success.

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
93 furnished to Dr. Timothy P. Plummer and to the members of the  
94 Capitol Press Corps.

