

Chapter No. 2061
15/HR26/R1899.1
NC / CST

***HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 86***

Originated in House



Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MADISON ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY.

WHEREAS, November 3, 2014, marked the 125th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Madison; and

WHEREAS, this historic landmark church was organized on November 3, 1889, with twenty people: S.M. Ellis, J.F. Norman, E.C. Melton, Lucille Melton, A. Smith, Sallie Smith, E.T. Potts, A.J. Clark, Eliza Clark, Fanny Clark, Callie Stewart, Lula Drummond, P.B. Bridges, Mrs. Willie Bridges, Miss Della Cox, Mrs. Pennie Cox, Mr. E.D. Cox, Mrs. Angie Warrick, Mrs. Lee and Miss Laura Bennett; and

WHEREAS, the founding members named the church, Madison Station Baptist Church and called J.R. Casten to serve as its first pastor; he was paid an annual salary of \$150 to preach one Sunday per month; and

WHEREAS, in 1894, after efforts to unite with New Hope Baptist, the church notified Madison Station that it was

dissolving and blessed the Madison Station with New Hope's building, organ, bible, song books and stove, all of which both churches decided to move to Madison Station, which boosted the total membership to 77, and they rebuilt the church with Murry W. Bennett, and completed reconstruction on April 7, of 1894. The newly joined group changed the Madison Station name to New Hope Madison Station Baptist Church in March 1894; and

WHEREAS, the year 1944 marked a sad time for the congregation because the spacious remodeled building of 1926 burned on February 13, 1944; and

WHEREAS, after the building burned, the Methodists shared their building and invited the Baptists to meet with them for Sunday School, preaching services and prayer meetings; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, the church launched a building program. A lot located directly north of the Madison-Ridgeland High School on Highway 463 was donated by Mr. and Mrs. B.L. McMillion. The new building was completed and occupied in 1949, the name of the church was changed to Madison Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, the church borrowed \$12,000 to build a ten room annex to the west side of the building, and with its continued growth, the church went from half-time to full-time in 1953 and for the first time in its history the church had all services weekly; and

WHEREAS, the church continued to grow under the lengthy ministry of Reverend Harold Jordan and in May of 1963, a vote was

taken to add another annex to the east side of the building.

During 1966 the church voted to build a pastorium. Reverend Billy McKay was called as pastor in December 1967, and his family moved into the new pastorium; and

WHEREAS, membership continued to grow and in 1972, the church purchased 5.7 acres of land north and west of its existing property and constructed an activities building. And in May of 1976, the church moved into a new building to serve as a fellowship hall and an interim auditorium; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Roy McHenry became pastor on November 1, 1978, and the 1970s saw Sunday School enrollment grow from 275 to 625, resident membership grew from 371 to 778, and the church's 1979 budget totaled \$242,218; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James Richardson became pastor in 1981. Under his leadership the church changed its name to the First Baptist Church of Madison and began to realize its potential and to fulfill its mission to the rapidly growing Madison Community; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the church conducted a capital funds campaign called "It Happens in Your Heart" to help build a \$1,800,000 sanctuary with more than \$766,000 raised, when the "victory goal" was \$400,000, and in 1985, preceding the church's centennial, a capital campaign called the "Centennial Celebration" was launched to help complete the lower floor of the sanctuary and the preschool building resulting in \$29,000 being added to the 1983 pledge; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive building program, that includes a sanctuary seating of 950 people, was completed in 1986, and the preschool building was completed in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Richardson retired in October of 1992, and Dr. John A. Temple became pastor on May 1, 1993, and under Dr. Temple's leadership, the church increased in attendance, membership, facilities and property with Dr. Temple serving as pastor until 2006, during which time additional property was bought, educational space was expanded, the Christian Activities Center was constructed and the chapel was renovated and restored; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ronnie Falvey became pastor May 4, 2008; he became Dr. Falvey when he was awarded the Doctor of Educational Leadership degree by the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May of 2012; under Dr. Falvey's leadership, the church has grown in membership and attendance and it has completed a \$16,500,000 building project that included renovation of existing facilities and the construction of a new sanctuary and additional educational space; and

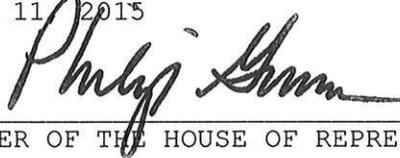
WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend historic landmark churches whose longevity has contributed positively to the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we hereby commend and congratulate the First

Baptist Church of Madison on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary, being celebrated on April 19, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to the First Baptist Church of Madison, Mississippi, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 11, 2015



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 18, 2015



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE