

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on its 150th anniversary and to celebrate the faith and sacrifices of its founders.

WHEREAS, Trinity Colored Methodist Episcopal Church began when free blacks found hope and meaning in the gospel preached by former slave owners and began worshipping throughout the town of Vermilion, now Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 1872, Governor Alexander Mouton granted a plot of ground known as Lot Number 235 on the old Corporation of Vermilionville to the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America for the purposes of "aiding in the promotion and morality among the [Black] population of the parish"; and

WHEREAS, a small group of free blacks began to erect a small frame building for worship services and, despite the adversities of the 1880s and 1890s, the church grew and prospered, often being noted for its role providing education and other needed support systems for black citizens in the community; and

WHEREAS, through the grace of God and the hard work of the membership, the church was rebuilt in 1954 and located at 604 Lee Avenue, its current location; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, the name "Colored" was officially changed to "Christian" and the church became known as the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and continued its special place in the lives of its congregation; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has been blessed with the leadership of a number of exceptional bishops, presiding elders, musicians, lay leaders, and faithful members; and

WHEREAS, in June 2013, history was made when Bishop Thomas L. Brown Sr. assigned Reverend Maggie C. Banks as the first woman pastor of Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2019, history was again made when Bishop C. James King Jr. appointed Reverend Maggie C. Banks as Louisiana's first woman presiding elder of the New Orleans district; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2021, Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was recognized by the Lafayette Consolidated Government and Cultural Historic Committee as the oldest African-American church in Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church continues to develop and support numerous outreach programs throughout the Lafayette community with the focus on becoming an ambassador for Christ and promoting spiritual, educational, economic, and social growth; and

WHEREAS, the humble church body that began 150 years ago with little more than the strength and tenacity of its parishioners remains today a beacon of hope and promise with a faithful congregation of disciples who worship their God, rejoice in a living faith in Jesus Christ, and reflect his love, goodness, and teachings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church on its 150th anniversary and celebrate the faith and sacrifices of its founders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend Maggie C. Banks, Pastor.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES