

2011 SPECIAL SESSION I

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5054

Offered June 9, 2011

Commending Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church.

Patrons—Surovell, Ebbin and Sickles

Unanimous consent to introduce

WHEREAS, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church of Alexandria, a vibrant congregation dedicated to serving others, will celebrate its 15th anniversary from June 2011 to June 2012; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church began when Bishop Thomas Stockton appointed the Reverend Keary Kincannon to explore the formation of a church along the Route One Corridor south of Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Kincannon, a longtime resident of the area, knew of the poverty that existed in a county with one of the highest median household incomes in the nation and began to reach out to those in the area; and

WHEREAS, in June 1996, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church was chartered in the community room of the West Ford public housing project with 11 members; and

WHEREAS, today, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church has a congregation of 100 active members who share a deep desire to reach out to those in need around them, whether it be the hungry or the homeless; and

WHEREAS, the Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church food pantry provides assistance to thousands of families annually while its kitchen serves 18,000 hot meals a year; the church also offers a 25-bed hypothermia shelter, substance abuse counseling, HIV testing, and employment services; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church was a founding member of Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement, which advocates for affordable housing and the disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church has touched the lives of countless individuals over the years, empowering them to achieve their personal best while providing worship services that inspire and nurture their faith; and

WHEREAS, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church looks forward to celebrating its 15th anniversary with special events designed to support its work including a gratitude service; fundraising dinner, dance, and auction; benefit concerts; and a "HopeFest"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church on the occasion of its 15th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Keary Kincannon, pastor of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the congregation's commitment to serving the local community.

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