

# 2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5071

Offered April 29, 2014

*Commending Payne Memorial United Methodist Church.*

Patron—Wright

WHEREAS, Payne Memorial United Methodist Church celebrates 100 years of serving and uplifting members of the Cumberland community in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Payne Memorial United Methodist Church traces its roots to March 15, 1913, when J. E. Clarke, J. H. Jenkins, T. M. Clarke, W. M. Smith, and B. B. Woodson were appointed to plan and build a Methodist church in the Cumberland Court House district; and

WHEREAS, the trustees of the Cumberland Court House Church approved building plans and an estimated cost of \$1,800 on November 10, 1913, and construction was under way soon thereafter; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, the Reverend J. T. Payne officially organized and established Cumberland Court House Church; the plaque on the church reads "In Memory of John T. Payne Who Founded This Church in 1914, And Served As Its First Pastor"; and

WHEREAS, the church site is part of the Effingham Tavern track, which allows visitors to trace Cumberland County's unique contributions to the birth of the nation as one of the first counties to issue a call for independence; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 1921, the quarterly conference authorized changing the name of Cumberland Court House Church to Payne Memorial Church in honor of the Reverend J. T. Payne, who died in 1917; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 1922, the name of the church was officially changed to Payne Memorial Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Payne Memorial Methodist Church became Payne Memorial United Methodist Church, following the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches; and

WHEREAS, ably led by the Reverend William Gess, who has served as pastor since July 1, 2012, Payne Memorial United Methodist Church has succeeded in its mission to meet the spiritual needs of its congregation and serve the wider community through outreach and good will; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Payne Memorial United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 100th 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 William Gess, pastor of Payne Memorial United Methodist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's long tradition of service to the Cumberland community.

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