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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 34
Offered January 14, 1998

Commending Ghent United Methodist Church.

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Patrons—Miller, Y.B., Lambert, Marsh, Maxwell and Walker; Delegates: Baskerville, Jones, J.C., McEachin and Robinson

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WHEREAS, at the turn of the 20th century, residents of the Ghent section of Norfolk who wished to worship in the Methodist Church had to travel to Freemason Street in downtown Norfolk to find the nearest church; and

WHEREAS, that distance, substantial in the days of horses and buggies, was sufficient motivation for J. W. Grandy and a group of prominent members of the Ghent neighborhood to form the Ghent Methodist Church Society in 1902, which shortly thereafter purchased land at the corner of Stockley Gardens and Raleigh Avenue; and

WHEREAS, that corner, 95 years later, remains the site of the Ghent United Methodist Church, where Ghent's Methodists continue to gather to worship each Sunday; and

WHEREAS, throughout its 95 years, three church structures, and 10 pastors, Ghent United Methodist Church has remained a strong, vibrant, growing, and diverse congregation; and

WHEREAS, today, as it has for nearly a century, Ghent United Methodist Church successfully maintains a balance between its spiritual mission and its need to reach out to the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, as it approaches its second century, Ghent United Methodist Church has an already established record of success and service to its community that will serve as a foundation for the future growth and prosperity of the church; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly commend the Ghent United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 95th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Pastor H. Leroy Siebert in honor of this significant milestone in the history of the Ghent United Methodist Church.