

1 HR855
2 121352-2
3 By Representative Kennedy
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 08-APR-10

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7
8 WELCOMING THE 37TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
9 CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO THE BEAUTIFUL GULF
10 COAST CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.
11

12 WHEREAS, we note with pride and appreciation that
13 the 37th General Conference of the Christian Methodist
14 Episcopal Church will be held in the City of Mobile from June
15 26 through July 4, 2010; and

16 WHEREAS, the CME Church was organized December 16,
17 1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, by 41 delegates from eight
18 Colored Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
19 South; this conference to establish a new church had been
20 authorized by the General Conference of the ME Church, South,
21 meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1866 in response to the
22 expressed desires and wishes of its African-American
23 constituents to have their own separate and independent
24 organization; having devoted the previous day to prayer,
25 delegates chose a name for their new church and, together with
26 the organizational and ordination requirements of American
27 Methodism, adopted the Articles of Religion; with the election

1 of two bishops, William H. Miles and Richard H. Vanderhorst,
2 and the doctrines and polity of the new church firmly
3 established, a new branch of Methodism was born among the
4 followers of John Wesley and in the Church of Jesus Christ;
5 fully independent, yet amicable in ecumenical relations, the
6 CME Church went forth to preach good news, teach divine truth,
7 and heal the brokenness of life by the power of God in our
8 Risen Savior; and

9 WHEREAS, through the years, the CME Church has been
10 sensitive to the spirit of the changing times; although
11 founded and continued as a predominantly African-American
12 Church, it was at no time exclusively so; membership in the
13 Church has always been open to any person "desiring to flee
14 from the wrath to come"; in 1954, a resolution was approved by
15 the General Conference stating, "aware of the inconsistency of
16 having a racial designation in the name of our church...and
17 without implying our disloyalty to, or disrespect for, the
18 founding fathers...we recommend that...proper steps be taken
19 to change the name of our church from Colored Methodist
20 Episcopal to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church"; and

21 WHEREAS, meeting quadrennially, the General
22 Conference serves as the Legislative Body of the CME Church;
23 Bishops of the Church are elected at each General Conference;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Alabama House of Representatives wishes
26 to extend a special welcome to the College of Bishops,
27 consisting of Bishop William H. Graves, Sr., Senior Bishop;

1 and Bishops Othal H. Lakey; Edward L. Brown; Thomas L. Hoyt,
2 Jr.; Paul A.G. Stewart, Sr.; L.L. Reddick, III; Henry M.
3 Williamson, Sr.; Ronald M. Cunningham; Thomas L. Brown, Sr.;
4 Kenneth W. Carter; Marshall Gilmore; Dotcy I. Isom, Jr.; and
5 Nathaniel L. Linsey; and to the General Officers, all Clergy
6 and Lay Voting Delegates, Alternates, and visitors; and

7 WHEREAS, this body has a particular connection to
8 and interest in activities, through the involvement of two of
9 its members; Representative Barbara Boyd, representing House
10 District 32, serves on the Church's Judicial Council, and
11 Representative Yvonne Kennedy, representing House District 97,
12 currently serves as Chair of the Committee on Episcopacy for
13 two quadrenniums, the only female and Lay Voting Delegate to
14 serve in this position; and

15 WHEREAS, the 37th Conference of the General
16 Conference is hosted by the Fifth Episcopal District, under
17 the Right Reverend Lawrence L. Reddick, III, Presiding Prelate
18 of the District; this is the first time in the 140-year
19 history of the CME that the General Conference has been held
20 in the City of Mobile; now therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
22 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That we hereby most heartily
23 welcome the General Conference of the Christian Methodist
24 Episcopal Church to the City of Mobile and that, by copy of
25 this resolution, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the
26 service of the Church and its members.