

1 HJR864  
2 121362-3  
3 By Representative Kennedy  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 08-APR-10

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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

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

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

WHEREAS, the CME Church was organized December 16,  
1870, in Jackson, Tennessee, by 41 delegates from eight  
Colored Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church,  
South; this conference to establish a new church had been  
authorized by the General Conference of the ME Church, South,  
meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1866 in response to the  
expressed desires and wishes of its African-American  
constituents to have their own separate and independent  
organization; having devoted the previous day to prayer,  
delegates chose a name for their new church and, together with  
the organizational and ordination requirements of American  
Methodism, adopted the Articles of Religion; with the election  
of two bishops, William H. Miles and Richard H. Vanderhorst,  
and the doctrines and polity of the new church firmly  
established, a new branch of Methodism was born among the

1 followers of John Wesley and in the Church of Jesus Christ;  
2 fully independent, yet amicable in ecumenical relations, the  
3 CME Church went forth to preach good news, teach divine truth,  
4 and heal the brokenness of life by the power of God in our  
5 Risen Savior; and

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

18 WHEREAS, meeting quadrennially, the General  
19 Conference serves as the Legislative Body of the CME Church;  
20 Bishops of the Church are elected at each General Conference;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Alabama Legislature wishes to extend a  
23 special welcome to the College of Bishops, consisting of  
24 Bishop William H. Graves, Sr., Senior Bishop; and Bishops  
25 Othal H. Lakey; Edward L. Brown; Thomas L. Hoyt, Jr.; Paul  
26 A.G. Stewart, Sr.; L.L. Reddick, III; Henry M. Williamson,

1 Sr.; Ronald M. Cunningham; Thomas L. Brown, Sr.; Kenneth W.  
2 Carter; Marshall Gilmore; Dotcy I. Isom, Jr.; and Nathaniel L.  
3 Linsey; and to the General Officers, all Clergy and Lay Voting  
4 Delegates, Alternates, and visitors; and

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

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

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

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in  
and was adopted by the House 13-APR-10.

Greg Pappas  
Clerk

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Senate

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21-APR-10

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Adopted