A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the bicentennial of the Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg.

WHEREAS, The Grace United Methodist Church is located in Harrisburg at 216 State Street directly across from the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building; and

WHEREAS, The congregation is considered the "Mother of Methodism" as the first Methodist Episcopal Church in the City of Harrisburg; and

WHEREAS, The original church, built in 1820 and located at Second and South Street, still stands today; and

WHEREAS, The building was later used by the Ohev Sholom Temple in 1853 after the church moved to a new location on Locust Street; and

WHEREAS, A third church, located at 216 State Street, became Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and was constructed between 1871 and 1878; and
WHEREAS, When the State Capitol Building burned to the ground in 1897, the legislature convened in Grace Methodist Episcopal Church; and
WHEREAS, The church graciously allowed the legislature to make use of its building for as long as was deemed necessary; and
WHEREAS, The House of Representatives met in the sanctuary of the church, while the Senate met in the assembly room; and
WHEREAS, Smaller rooms were reserved for caucus and committee meetings; and
WHEREAS, While the church was used as a temporary Capitol Building, the congregation of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church met at the Harrisburg Opera House; and
WHEREAS, Much debate occurred over returning the State's seat of government to Philadelphia; and
WHEREAS, Had the church not offered up the use of its building, the State capital would have likely returned to Philadelphia; and
WHEREAS, The legislature continued to meet in the church building from February 8, 1897, until December 31, 1898, upon completion of the new State Capitol Building; and
WHEREAS, The church was remodeled in 1899 and again in 1940; and
WHEREAS, Today, the Grace United Methodist Church is considered one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in this Commonwealth; and
WHEREAS, Despite recent hardships and the continued pandemic, the congregation continues to grow with attendance doubling in the past year; and
WHEREAS, The congregation of the Grace United Methodist
Church is welcoming of everyone; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the bicentennial of the Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives thank the congregation of the Grace United Methodist Church for the use of its building as the temporary State Capitol Building; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church and to the Resident Bishop of the Harrisburg Area for the United Methodist Church.