

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1017 Session of  
2020

---

INTRODUCED BY KIM, SAYLOR, HELM, SONNEY, FREEMAN, STURLA,  
CALTAGIRONE, PICKETT, GALLOWAY, HAHN, ROTHMAN, MACKENZIE,  
MCNEILL, BOBACK, HARKINS, HOWARD, MILLARD, ISAACSON,  
LONGIETTI, KORTZ AND HOHENSTEIN, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

---

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, A third church, located at 216 State Street, became  
15 Grace Methodist Episcopal Church and was constructed between  
16 1871 and 1878; and

1       WHEREAS, When the State Capitol Building burned to the ground  
2 in 1897, the legislature convened in Grace Methodist Episcopal  
3 Church; and

4       WHEREAS, The church graciously allowed the legislature to  
5 make use of its building for as long as was deemed necessary;  
6 and

7       WHEREAS, The House of Representatives met in the sanctuary of  
8 the church, while the Senate met in the assembly room; and

9       WHEREAS, Smaller rooms were reserved for caucus and committee  
10 meetings; and

11       WHEREAS, While the church was used as a temporary Capitol  
12 Building, the congregation of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church  
13 met at the Harrisburg Opera House; and

14       WHEREAS, Much debate occurred over returning the State's seat  
15 of government to Philadelphia; and

16       WHEREAS, Had the church not offered up the use of its  
17 building, the State capital would have likely returned to  
18 Philadelphia; and

19       WHEREAS, The legislature continued to meet in the church  
20 building from February 8, 1897, until December 31, 1898, upon  
21 completion of the new State Capitol Building; and

22       WHEREAS, The church was remodeled in 1899 and again in 1940;  
23 and

24       WHEREAS, Today, the Grace United Methodist Church is  
25 considered one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in this  
26 Commonwealth; and

27       WHEREAS, Despite recent hardships and the continued pandemic,  
28 the congregation continues to grow with attendance doubling in  
29 the past year; and

30       WHEREAS, The congregation of the Grace United Methodist

1 Church is welcoming of everyone; and

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

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

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

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