

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 746

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor the Bicentennial Celebration of the founding of the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination in Dickson County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with its citizens in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the faithful members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination are celebrating the bicentennial anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was founded by the Reverend Samuel McAdow, the Reverend Finis Ewing, and the Reverend Samuel King in the log cabin of Reverend Samuel McAdow on February 4, 1810, in Dickson County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was founded to meet the tremendous need of religious teaching and guidance to an ever-expanding population in the western frontier of the newly established United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the first synod meeting of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was held at the Old Beech Meeting House in 1813 in Sumner County; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland College (now Cumberland University) was established in Princeton, Kentucky, in 1826, and was one of the first institutions of higher education in the United States to enroll both men and women; Miss Ann Harpending was enrolled in the first class; and

WHEREAS, the first General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Denomination was held in 1829 in Princeton, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Bethel College (now Bethel University) was established in 1842 in McLemoresville; and

WHEREAS, slavery, although fiercely debated, was decried as an institution by the Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly; the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was one of the few national denominations that did not divide along political lines; and

WHEREAS, in 1889, Ms. Louisa Woosley, a Cumberland Presbyterian, became the first woman ordained in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition; and

WHEREAS, the first Cumberland Presbyterian Center opened in Memphis in 1951 to house the various agencies of the denomination; and

WHEREAS, the 1984 revision of the Cumberland Presbyterian Confession of Faith was one of the first inclusive confessional documents in the Reformed tradition; and

WHEREAS, the new Cumberland Presbyterian Center moved to the Memphis suburb of Cordova in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination has over 78,000 members in over 700 churches located in many states throughout the United States, as well as Colombia, South America, Hong Kong, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church currently has twenty-three missionaries in seventeen countries; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is one of the truly home-grown institutions of the great state of Tennessee, and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this historic religious institution and its members as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church upon the denomination's celebration of the church's bicentennial and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding service to our fellow Tennesseans and the entire world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.