

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 147

By Faison

### A RESOLUTION to recognize the Beth-Car Methodist Church in White Pine.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations whose commitments to the people of the State of Tennessee have set a wonderful example of mercy, compassion, and outreach; and

WHEREAS, one such venerable religious institution is Beth-Car United Methodist Church in White Pine, one of Tennessee's oldest churches. The genesis of this distinguished congregation can be traced to the early 1790s, when groups of settlers travelled across the Appalachian Mountains and settled in the northeastern region of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as many of these families braved the perils of the new frontier, they held to the evangelical teachings and exhortations of Methodism's founder, John Wesley; in his style, the frontier families met together in homes as societies of worshippers; and

WHEREAS, as time passed, these early societies organized themselves into circuitous routes, along which circuit-riding pastors, some trained by Wesley himself, traveled and stayed in homes, held meetings, preached, and conducted ceremonies in the settlements that they served; and

WHEREAS, gleaning information from the best reference sources of the era, it is believed that the society of Beth-Car was organized in 1792, and, soon after that date, a meeting house built of logs with mud chinking was erected quite close to the present-day church structure; and

WHEREAS, the first framed meeting house is believed to have been built in 1814, and some thirty years later, possibly around 1840, the present structure was erected. It is known

that the Holston Conference was organized at Knoxville in 1824, and Beth-Car immediately became a member; and

WHEREAS, the oldest actual record books of attendance and finances of Beth-Car go back only to 1898. However, other excellent research documents record the pastors who have served this congregation since its founding; and

WHEREAS, the vitality of Beth-Car faded during the first half of the Twentieth Century, but with the prayerful and concerted efforts of the descendants of the founding families, the church was revived and has thrived, and continues today to serve as a bastion of hope, faith, and spiritual inspiration to members of all denominations in the community; and

WHEREAS, Beth-Car has, for more than two centuries, been a linchpin of the community, offering hope to generations of Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that this legislative body recognize Beth-Car Methodist Church as one of this State's oldest and finest religious institutions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize the historical significance of Beth-Car Methodist Church as one of Tennessee's oldest churches and extend our best wishes to that mighty fortress of faith for success in every future endeavor.

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