

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1003

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor Clark Memorial United Methodist Church for its role in the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing those institutions that persevere in the quest for justice, even when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles; and

WHEREAS, one such champion for civil rights is Clark Memorial United Methodist Church, the historic training ground for the Nashville Sit-Ins Movement and now a part of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail; and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2020, the Metro Nashville Historical Commission dedicated a historical marker that designates the church as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement in the city; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1959, Dr. James M. Lawson, a student at the Vanderbilt University Divinity School, taught classes at the church for student participation in sit-ins and Freedom Rides; he was one of the founders of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and organized students from Fisk University, Tennessee State University, Meharry Medical College, American Baptist College, and Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, those participating in the demonstrations included Congressman John Lewis, Diane Nash, Reverend Bernard Lafayette, and Rip Patton, among others; and

WHEREAS, the historical marker is dedicated in memory of Matthew Walker, Jr., a longtime member of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church who challenged the church and the community to never forget the importance of the works of the Civil Rights Movement; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize Clark Memorial United Methodist Church and its role in training students during the Civil Rights Movement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the history and legacy of Clark Memorial United Methodist Church as we reflect on the church's importance in the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.