

By: Haggerty

H.R. No. 96

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The congregation of St. George Antiochian Orthodox
2 Church of El Paso is celebrating the consecration of its new church
3 building on October 17, 2003; and

4 WHEREAS, St. George traces its roots back to 1947, when
5 citizens of Arabic descent organized to establish an Eastern
6 Orthodox church in El Paso; after meeting in a private home, the
7 group was offered the use of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church for
8 its services; at times it also used the Pro Cathedral Church of St.
9 Clement; and

10 WHEREAS, The Right Reverend Basilious Sedoui, from Damascus,
11 Syria, became the first pastor of the congregation and served until
12 1950, delivering his sermons alternately in Greek and in Arabic; as
13 more and more young people who could not speak Arabic came into the
14 church, a new priest, the Very Reverend Father Nicholas Husson, was
15 assigned to it, and he led the congregation from October 1950 until
16 his retirement in 1967; and

17 WHEREAS, In order to accommodate their growing membership,
18 the congregation purchased Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1950
19 and remodeled it to meet their needs, doing much of the carpentry
20 themselves; the building was renovated again in 1958, following a
21 fire, and in 1974 the congregation erected a church hall, gym,
22 kitchen, and classrooms; and

23 WHEREAS, The Very Reverend Father Jehad T. Michael has served
24 the congregants of St. George as pastor since 1991, and he has been

1 assisted since 1994 by the Reverend Father Robert Bethoney; and

2 WHEREAS, The life of this congregation is further sustained
3 and enriched by the contributions of a number of organizations,
4 including the Parish Council, Ladies Society, Fellowship of St.
5 John the Divine, Order of St. Ignatius, Teen SOYO, choir, church
6 school, and altar boys; over the course of the year, members also
7 sponsor a number of events designed to benefit both the church and
8 the wider community; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the tireless and dedicated efforts of many
10 individuals, the congregation of St. George has enjoyed a cherished
11 spiritual home for more than half a century, and it is a pleasure to
12 join in celebrating the consecration of its splendid new building;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Very Reverend Father Jehad T. Michael, the
15 Reverend Father Robert Bethoney, and the congregation of St. George
16 Antiochian Orthodox Church be congratulated on the occasion of the
17 consecration of their new church edifice and that they be extended
18 sincere best wishes for success in all their future endeavors; and,
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church as an expression
22 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.