

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 21

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The congregants of First United Methodist Church of
2 Pampa celebrated a joyous anniversary with the commemoration of the
3 church's centennial on September 23-24, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, First United Methodist traces its roots to five
5 charter members, Oscar and Gertrude Cousins, W. W. and Ella Harrah,
6 and the Harrahs' son, Lee; under the direction of the Reverend J. A.
7 Laney, the congregation was organized on September 29, 1906, as the
8 Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Pampa; and

9 WHEREAS, Services were originally held at the Johnson
10 Mercantile Building and later at the local school; in 1908 the
11 congregation acquired two lots and built a one-room church, which
12 was graced with arched windows of floral, opaque glass; and

13 WHEREAS, Congregants purchased the site of the present church
14 building in 1924 and erected a typical frontier-style basement
15 church, completing the sanctuary in 1928; over the years, this
16 building at Ballard and Foster Streets has been extensively
17 remodeled, and other facilities have been added to accommodate the
18 growing membership of "the church on the corner"; and

19 WHEREAS, First United Methodist offers residents of the Pampa
20 area many opportunities for spiritual enrichment, including
21 participation in the United Methodist Women, the Kairos Prison
22 Ministry, and the Walk to Emmaus; generous in its support of
23 domestic and international mission projects, the church has
24 contributed to the work of evangelists around the world, reached

1 many members of the local community through radio broadcasts of its
2 morning services, and supported numerous other mission endeavors,
3 including the Waco Methodist Children's Home; in addition, the
4 church awards several scholarships and donates to area colleges and
5 Wesley Foundations; and

6 WHEREAS, After the population of Pampa increased more than
7 tenfold between 1920 and 1930, First United Methodist founded two
8 mission churches, which became St. Paul United Methodist and an
9 interdenominational church known as The Carpenter's House; long
10 immersed in the life of its community, First United Methodist has
11 also shared its space with such civic organizations as the Lions
12 Club, Kiwanis, Altrusa International, Inc., Meals on Wheels, and
13 the city library, the latter two of which were housed in the church
14 for some time; and

15 WHEREAS, From its beginnings, First United Methodist Church
16 has served as a source of fellowship, comfort, and guidance to its
17 members while also ministering to the needs of society at large, and
18 the congregation's rich and dynamic history is indeed deserving of
19 special recognition; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate First United Methodist Church on a
22 century of service to the Pampa community and beyond and extend to
23 all those affiliated with the church sincere best wishes for
24 continued success in the years ahead; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
27 House of Representatives.