

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 2108

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, One of the oldest African American churches in  
2 Texas, St. Paul United Methodist in San Antonio marked another  
3 milestone in its illustrious history on November 19, 2006, with the  
4 celebration of its 140th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, St. Paul became the first black church to be  
6 established in San Antonio when a local minister, the Reverend A.  
7 Larkin Carper, organized former members of Travis Park Methodist  
8 Episcopal Church into a new congregation in 1866; soon afterward,  
9 parishioners of St. Paul voted to affiliate with the northern  
10 branch of the Methodist Church, and they began holding services in  
11 an area known as Newcomville, on the near West Side; and

12 WHEREAS, The congregation met at several different sites  
13 before erecting a substantial building at its present location on  
14 the East Side in 1921-1922; since that time, members have enlarged  
15 their campus through the purchase of adjacent property, and the  
16 church complex has undergone expansion and renovation; and

17 WHEREAS, Congregants of St. Paul have long sought to address  
18 the basic needs of their community: following the Civil War, St.  
19 Paul hosted the Lincoln School, the first African American school  
20 to open its doors in San Antonio; in the 1940s, the church  
21 established St. Paul House, which served the East Side as both a  
22 secular and religious meeting place and, in the days of  
23 segregation, also provided lodging for travelers; today, St. Paul  
24 is engaged in a number of outreach efforts, including such

1 collaborative undertakings as the Wesley Nursing Program, which the  
2 church helped to pioneer, and the Feed My Lambs food and clothing  
3 bank, managed by the St. Paul United Methodist Women; and

4 WHEREAS, Through the years, St. Paul has been led by a number  
5 of able pastors; in addition to Reverend Carper, ministers have  
6 included the Reverends Mack Henson, C. L. Madison, J. W. Weakley, L.  
7 H. Richardson, J. W. Warren, G. A. Deslandes, Robert S. Mosby, K. W.  
8 McMillan, Earnest Smith, Jacob H. Carruthers, T. M. Bruton, Lavalley  
9 H. Lowe, Prenza L. Woods, Hector Grant, Robert Felder, and Terrence  
10 Hays; the congregation is now guided by the Reverend Dr. Marcus A.  
11 L. Freeman III; and

12 WHEREAS, Individual members have contributed their talents  
13 to the community in many roles, both as professionals and as  
14 tradesmen and craftsmen; in addition, the mothers of the  
15 congregation, especially, have instilled strong values in their  
16 children, raising them to be responsible citizens and productive  
17 members of society; and

18 WHEREAS, St. Paul's rich heritage was recognized in 2002,  
19 when the church received a United Methodist Historical Marker; and

20 WHEREAS, Sustained by a common purpose, warm fellowship, and  
21 inspired leadership, the members of St. Paul United Methodist  
22 Church have remained constant in their devotion and witness to  
23 their faith, and it is a pleasure to commemorate this joyous  
24 occasion in the life of their church; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
26 Legislature hereby congratulate the Reverend Dr. Marcus A. L.  
27 Freeman III and the congregants of St. Paul United Methodist Church

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1 on the 140th anniversary of the church's founding and extend to them  
2 sincere best wishes as they embark on a new decade of worship and  
3 service; and, be it further

4         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for Reverend Freeman and the church's congregation as an  
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.