

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of First United Methodist Church of
2 Palestine are joining together on September 11, 2011, to celebrate
3 the 100th anniversary of the dedication of their present building
4 and to mark 175 years of Methodism in the Palestine area; and

5 WHEREAS, It was in 1836, the same year that Texas won its
6 independence, that a Methodist missionary first arrived in the
7 settlement of Fort Houston, situated two miles west of present-day
8 Palestine, and began conducting services; in the early days, when
9 area residents gathered for worship, men would take turns standing
10 guard against the threat of Indian attack; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1840, the fledgling congregation began meeting in
12 the home of Roland Box, where services were led by the Reverend John
13 Wilson, from the Crockett Mission in adjacent Houston County; after
14 Palestine became the county seat in 1846, the congregation moved to
15 the new town, along with most of the other residents of Fort
16 Houston; a frame church, Bascom Chapel, was built by the Methodist
17 Society in 1850, and as the only church building in Palestine, it
18 was also used by the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Disciples of
19 Christ; the first Methodist Sunday school was organized in 1853;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Methodist congregation erected a new building,
22 designed by the noted Galveston architect Nicholas J. Clayton, in
23 1884 and named it Centenary Church, to mark a century of Methodism
24 in the United States; construction was begun on the current church

1 building in 1910, and a formal dedication took place the following
2 year; recent improvements have included new Sunday school and
3 children's buildings and a new fellowship hall; and

4 WHEREAS, Countless Texans have looked to First United
5 Methodist Church of Palestine for spiritual sustenance and guidance
6 through the years, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize this
7 historic congregation; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 100th
10 anniversary of the dedication of the First United Methodist Church
11 building in Palestine and 175 years of Methodism in the Palestine
12 area; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for First United Methodist Church of Palestine as an
15 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Cook

H.R. No. 189

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 189 was adopted by the House on June 28, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House