

By: Giddings

H.R. No. 373

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist  
2 Church in Dallas are celebrating the 80th anniversary of their  
3 church's founding; and

4 WHEREAS, Organized in 1933, the church was first known as  
5 Saint Paul Mission, later changing to East St. Paul Methodist  
6 Church, then St. Luke Methodist Church; although its first  
7 sanctuary was destroyed by a fire in 1941, the congregation pulled  
8 together and rebuilt several years later; in 1974, members gathered  
9 for the first time at the church's current home on R. L. Thornton  
10 Freeway; and

11 WHEREAS, United by their shared faith and strong traditions,  
12 the members of this notable house of worship support a variety of  
13 commendable programs that offer fellowship as well as help to those  
14 in need; its many outreach ministries include such diverse areas as  
15 career development, homeless assistance, social action, academic  
16 skills reinforcement, and physical fitness; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the decades, the church has benefited from the  
18 leadership of many excellent pastors; Rev. Merrell T. Reed led the  
19 congregation in its earliest years, and Rev. Timothy B. Echols and  
20 Rev. John W. Tatum, Sr., guided the church's expansion of social  
21 programs in the mid-1960s to early 1970s; Rev. Zan W. Holmes, Jr.,  
22 assumed leadership in 1974 and served for 28 years, during which  
23 time he added "Community" to the church's name to match its civic  
24 mission and oversaw the development of its Community Life Center,

1 named in his honor; the current pastor, Rev. Henry L. Masters, Sr.,  
2 is nationally known and respected and has served St. Luke since July  
3 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, Countless Texans have looked to St. Luke "Community"  
5 United Methodist Church in Dallas for spiritual guidance through  
6 the years, and this notable milestone provides a fitting  
7 opportunity to recognize all who have contributed to its longevity;  
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby commemorate the 80th anniversary of the founding  
11 of St. Luke "Community" United Methodist Church and extend to the  
12 congregation sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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