

Senate Resolution 1108

By: Senator Hill of the 4th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and congratulating Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the
2 celebration of its 116th anniversary on February 19, 2006; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the original congregation of Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal
4 Church consisted of eight Christian men and women who purchased an acre of land for
5 \$20.00 to erect a church on August 25, 1890, in Reidsville; and

6 WHEREAS, the church was used as a school for many years for African American children;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, a new church and sanctuary were built in 1943, thanks to the vision and
9 commitment of many members; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1955 two other rural churches, Bethlehem AME Church and Mt. Zion AME
11 Church, merged with Bethel AME to become "Greater Bethel"; and

12 WHEREAS, Reverend Teal took over church leadership in 1968 and spearheaded a major
13 reconstruction project that transformed the church from a wooden building without plumbing
14 to the block building of today with wood floors, restrooms, a kitchen, and a new piano; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2004, under the leadership of Presiding Elder Richard Q. Ward, Sr., the
16 church underwent another renovation that led to multiple rooms being added to the
17 sanctuary; and

18 WHEREAS, at the AME Annual Conference held in Athens, Georgia, in 2004, the church's
19 name was officially changed to the Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church; and

20 WHEREAS, under the guidance of a number of dedicated and devoted leaders, the
21 community of Greater Bethel has flourished for more than a century; and

1 WHEREAS, Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has contributed greatly to
2 the community of Reidsville and surrounding areas for more than 100 years as a place of
3 learning, spirituality, and community, and it is only fitting this body should commend and
4 congratulate this institution.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
6 recognize and congratulate Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church on
7 celebrating 116 years of contributions to its community.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
9 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Greater Bethel African Methodist
10 Episcopal Church.