

House Resolution 1899

By: Representative Hugley of the 136th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church on the grand occasion of its 61st
- 2 anniversary; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church, which was originally called St.
- 4 Mary's Hill Methodist Church, was founded in the fall of 1955 in a building that had
- 5 originally been an abandoned prison camp; and
- 6 WHEREAS, the church's charter members and friends converted the prison camp into a place
- 7 of worship, and the church relocated to its current site in 1966, 11 years after its charter; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in the 50 years after relocation, there have been numerous facility updates and
- 9 renovations, thanks to the generous contributions of church members over the years; and
- 10 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Road UMC has been fortunate to have many great pastors serve the
- 11 congregation, and following a brief decline in church membership from 1978 to 1986,
- 12 Reverend Jerry Woodberry proposed that the church respond to its ethnically diverse
- 13 environment and make serious efforts to reach out to welcome the changing community; and
- 14 WHEREAS, with this in mind, Bishop Ernest Fitzgerald announced the appointment of
- 15 Reverend James E. Swanson to St. Mary's Road UMC, making him the first African
- 16 American pastor at the church, and the church's membership grew from 12 in 1987 to 753
- 17 in 1999; and
- 18 WHEREAS, with this massive increase came the need for a second worship service, so in
- 19 1992, the Early Morning Worship Service began followed by the introduction of evening
- 20 praise services five years later in 1997; and
- 21 WHEREAS, with the large expansion came the development of 47 ministries within the
- 22 church, including Sunday school programs for children and adults as well as scouting troops

23 for boys and girls, and due to the church's strong focus on children, the church ran a Christian
24 Academy from 1996 to 2006 until the school director's retirement; and

25 WHEREAS, since the church's Consecration in 2000, it has undergone extreme expansion
26 and renovation, adding Sunday school classrooms, a conference area, an administrative wing,
27 an expanded library, additional parking, a larger sanctuary to accommodate more than 500
28 members, and state-of-the-art technology.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
30 the members of this body recognize St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church on the grand
31 occasion of its 61st anniversary.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to St.
34 Mary's Road United Methodist Church.