

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion and celebration of its 154th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, originally named the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America, Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is the oldest African American church in Lafayette and began when free blacks found hope and meaning in the gospel preached by former slave owners and started worshiping throughout the town of Vermilion, now Lafayette, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 1872, Governor Alexander Mouton granted a plot of ground known as Lot Number 235 on the old Corporation of Vermilionville to the congregation of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America for "a church, parsonage or public school house" to aid in the promotion and morality among the black population of the parish; and

WHEREAS, a small group of free blacks erected a small frame building for worship services which, despite the adversities of the 1880's and 1890's, grew and prospered, many times being noted for its role providing education and other needed support systems for the black citizens in the community; and

WHEREAS, beginning its spiritual journey in a tent, the congregation, guided by faith and determination, through God's grace and hard work, the church was rebuilt in 1954 and located at 604 Lee Avenue, its current location, and the name "Colored" was officially changed in 1956 to "Christian" and the church became known as "Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church", which today continues to be a special place in the lives of its congregation; and

WHEREAS, throughout its long and distinguished history, Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has become a beacon of hope and spiritual guidance within the Lafayette community, providing leadership and compassion through numerous outreach ministries that serve the needs of the people and is blessed with leadership by a number of exceptional bishops, presiding elders, musicians, lay leaders, and faithful members; and

WHEREAS, Trinity is committed to service through meaningful programs that include music ministry, participation in the downtown ministerial alliance, ministries supporting the homeless and senior citizens, and outreach efforts to assist the poor and underserved through its guiding motto, "We walk by faith, and not by sight", which reflects the steadfast faith that has sustained the congregation through generations of worship, service, and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, in June 2013, Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr. made history in assigning Reverend Maggie C. Banks as the first woman pastor of Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and under her dedicated leadership, Trinity continues its mission of spiritual growth, service, and community engagement, building upon the strong foundation laid by generations of faithful members over the past one hundred fifty-four years; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 154th Anniversary celebration, inspired by Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God for Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church: A Look in Two Directions", reflects both gratitude for the church's rich history and faith in its promising future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Lafayette, Louisiana, on the occasion and celebration of its 154th Anniversary, recognizing its historic contributions, spiritual leadership, and unwavering commitment to faith and community service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Trinity Christian Methodist Episcopal Church and the Reverend Maggie C. Banks.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE