



HR0746

LRB099 14196 MST 38254 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the First United Methodist
4 Church of Normal on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of
5 its founding; and

6 WHEREAS, The church had its beginnings in the home of
7 Andrew and Nancy Mason on the night of September 5, 1865 with
8 only 23 initial members; Rev. C.D. James was appointed as the
9 church's first pastor; and

10 WHEREAS, The church's first building was dedicated on June
11 7, 1867, predating the establishment of the Town of Normal
12 itself and was originally known as the First Methodist
13 Episcopal Church of Normal; and

14 WHEREAS, By 1951, the size of the congregation had grown to
15 the point that 2 Sunday morning services were needed; this
16 showed the need for a larger building, and on December 22,
17 1957, the congregants moved into the present building; the
18 congregation continued to grow, reaching the point that 3
19 services were needed each Sunday morning and a Saturday service
20 beginning in December of 1991; soon construction began on an
21 addition to the building, which opened on Palm Sunday in 1995;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Andrew and Nancy Mason's home, where the church
2 was founded, became a haven for retired Methodist Deaconesses
3 and was overseen by Nancy Mason for 35 years after her
4 husband's death; her concern for the welfare of the old and
5 young, especially the orphaned, led to their home becoming The
6 Baby Fold; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, the church also supports the Cunningham
8 Children's Home in Urbana, Chaddock in Quincy, the United
9 Methodist Children's Home in Mt. Vernon, Home Sweet Home
10 Ministries, The Salvation Army, and other local and regional
11 missions; it is an international partner in faith and service
12 to schools and hospitals in Liberia and Zimbabwe; therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
16 recognize the First United Methodist Church of Normal on its
17 150th anniversary and we wish them many more years of success;
18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the First United Methodist Church of Normal as an
21 expression of our esteem and respect.