

HR294 INTRODUCED



1 HR294
2 YMYDFNN-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 24-Apr-25



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4 HR_____ CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWENTY-THIRD
5 STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.
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7 WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 19, 1900, the Morning
8 Pilgrim Baptist Church was officially established under the
9 guidance of Reverend T.W. Walker, Reverend Wilhite, and
10 Reverend Father Jackson, with Reverend L.V. Elderson called
11 as its first pastor; and

12 WHEREAS, members of the first congregation were as
13 follows: Brother Mancer Benjamin, Sister Ella Elliott,
14 Brother John Rudledge, Sister Ella Bibbs, Sister Fannie
15 Finley, Sister Annie Rudledge, Brother Will Bibbs, Sister
16 Annie Gailey, Brother Andrew Strainger, Brother Ed Elliott,
17 Sister Kate Head, and Sister Callie Turner; and

18 WHEREAS, within its first 10 days, the church
19 experienced extraordinary growth through a revival that led
20 to the addition of 150 members and the raising of \$165,
21 which funded the down payment on property at 23rd Street and
22 Alley C (Third Alley) South; and

23 WHEREAS, under the leadership of its second pastor,
24 Reverend A. Hawkins, a new church building was completed,
25 solidifying a foundation for future growth, and under its
26 third pastor, Reverend G.L. Thornton, the church expanded
27 its holdings, purchasing an entire one-fourth block of land
28 and operating a grocery store on its property; and



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29 WHEREAS, in 1916, the church transitioned from
30 Morning Pilgrim Baptist Church to the 23rd Street Baptist
31 Church #2 under Reverend Thornton's leadership, marking a
32 significant rebranding that signified its commitment to
33 growth and service; and

34 WHEREAS, during the tenure of the church's fourth
35 pastor, Reverend C.S. Reddick, the congregation suffered the
36 devastating loss of its building due to fire, yet remained
37 steadfast and rebuilt at a cost of \$40,000, demonstrating
38 resilience and faith; and

39 WHEREAS, under the remarkable leadership of
40 successive pastors, including Dr. Calvin Perkins, Reverend
41 O.D. Jones, and Reverend James Matthew Lewis, Sr., the
42 church experienced profound spiritual and structural
43 advancements, expanding ministries, paying off debts, and
44 fortifying its mission to serve; and

45 WHEREAS, Reverend P. Banneker Hatcherson led the
46 congregation into the new millennium by overseeing massive
47 membership and financial growth, eliminating a \$150,000
48 debt, hiring additional staff, and pioneering new ministries
49 such as S.W.A.T. (Soul Winning Action Team), V.I.P. (Vision
50 in Progress), and Lameness to Leaping; and

51 WHEREAS, the church has expanded its physical
52 footprint under Reverend Hatcherson, adding the V.I.P.
53 Annex, incorporating new offices, a fellowship hall, a
54 library, and a community-centered clothing and food share
55 program based on Isaiah 55:1, ensuring that service remains
56 central to its mission; and



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57 WHEREAS, throughout its history, the 23rd Street
58 Baptist Church has been unwavering in its commitment to the
59 mission statement: "We are a church busy exposing truth and
60 erasing error, while we exalt the Savior, edify the saints,
61 evangelize the sinner, and enable the seeker"; now
62 therefore,

63 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
64 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the Twenty-Third Street
65 Missionary Baptist Church is highly commended for its
66 profound 125-year legacy, continuous contributions to the
67 community, and commitment to faith-based service.

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