

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1720

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Wamego First United Methodist Church.

WHEREAS, March 13, 2017, marks the 150th anniversary of the Wamego First United Methodist Church's founding; and

WHEREAS, Methodism was brought to the early pioneers of Wamego by circuit riders, and the Methodist-Episcopal Church was established on March 13, 1867, and grew to 60 members by 1870. During those early years, services were held in various halls around the community; and

WHEREAS, In 1878, a wood-framed church was built north of Sixth and Lincoln Streets, and in 1905, under the guidance of Reverend G.A. Marvel, plans for a church made of native stone were begun; and

WHEREAS, On June 9, 1908, the cornerstone for the stone church was laid during a special ceremony, and Reverend Marvel read a list of articles placed in the cornerstone; and

WHEREAS, In 1909, the native stone church, which still stands today, was completed at an approximate cost of \$14,000 and includes 32 beautiful stained-glass windows that were donated by members and friends of the church; and

WHEREAS, In 1942, the basement of the church was refinished, and the kitchen was remodeled and modernized to provide better facilities for the many fellowship events and Sunday school classes held at the church; and

WHEREAS, In 1947, the sanctuary was completely remodeled and air conditioning was added with funds provided by a generous gift from Henry M. and Matilda A. Mitchell; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, with the church having grown to 400 members, plans were begun to construct a fellowship and education building north of the stone church; and

WHEREAS, On January 16, 1966, a consecration service was held for the newly constructed Fellowship Hall, which was connected to the stone church and contained a newer, larger kitchen in addition to more space for educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, On March 13, 1992, a grand celebration for 125 years of Methodism in Wamego was held, and the cornerstone from 1908 was opened and resealed; and

WHEREAS, In August, 1999, a Vision Awareness event occurred and resulted in the first of five capital campaigns, which ultimately raised \$2.5 million for the building project; and

WHEREAS, In February, 2003, ground was broken for the building project and construction began; and

WHEREAS, On October 31, 2004, the new education wing with more classrooms, larger offices for the pastor and staff, an enlarged and remodeled kitchen, larger handicapped-accessible restrooms, a larger elevator and an enlarged sanctuary were dedicated; and

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2017, the congregation celebrated 150 years of faithfulness with a church service, music by the chancel choir, the hand bell choir, the Prairie Rose Quartet, the dedication of two original pieces of artwork, an old-fashioned potluck luncheon and an open house; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 150 years, members of the Wamego First United Methodist Church have dedicated their time, talents, gifts, prayers, service and witness to make the Wamego First United Methodist Church a vibrant part of Wamego history: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Wamego First United Methodist Church; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Kelly.

Senate Resolution No. 1720 was sponsored by Senators Laura Kelly and Jeff Longbine.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.