

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 389

By Yager

A RESOLUTION recognizing West Hills Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the many fine churches across this State constitute an institutional foundation for an orderly and just society for all Tennesseans, and their dedicated service to God and humanity is the bedrock upon which our State and nation are founded; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic and historic community of faith is West Hills Presbyterian Church, whose members honored the church's fiftieth anniversary during a special celebration on April 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the congregation of West Hills Presbyterian continues to hold true to the aims established at the church's founding: teaching the Bible, striving to worship God, and growing in faithfulness to Jesus Christ by the guidance of the Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS, soon after its formation in 1965, West Hills Presbyterian became affiliated with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC) but changed affiliation to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) due to the larger number of PCA congregations in the area; and

WHEREAS, today, the church continues its service as a member of the Tennessee Valley Presbytery of the PCA; and

WHEREAS, the church was founded when the pastor and several members of Harriman First Presbyterian Church left that congregation to found a new congregation, one that held a strong commitment to the historic faith; and

WHEREAS, under the Reverend John H. Thompson Jr., the new church's first pastor, the congregation initially adopted the name of Conservative Presbyterian Church before changing it to West Hills Presbyterian in 1967, when construction of the church building was completed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the guidance of the Reverend Thompson, West Hills Presbyterian has benefited from the thoughtful and considered leadership of pastors Luder G. Whitlock Jr., John D. Holmes, Lauris G. Vidal, Craig L. Boden, Clyde C. Cobb, Timothy A. Rake, and Jeffrey D. Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, over the past five decades, West Hills Presbyterian has contributed to the broader mission of the church by supporting missionaries and helping form new congregations, including those of Redeemer OPC in Atlanta, Georgia, and Crossville First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, West Hills Presbyterian Church is one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, West Hills Presbyterian Church has stood on the rock-solid foundation of Christian belief, service, and love for fifty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend the congregation of West Hills Presbyterian Church on the celebration of the church's fiftieth anniversary, extending our best wishes for the church's continued success and growth in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.