

Senator Allen offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 186.

A resolution to commemorate the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the congregation of the Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City, Michigan.

Whereas, We are proud to join with the congregation of the Central United Methodist Church in Traverse City, Michigan, in celebrating the upcoming Sesquicentennial Anniversary of its inception. This milestone is an opportunity to celebrate the faith and unity of those who founded the congregation 150 years ago; and

Whereas, In 1848, a Methodist Episcopal preacher from New York State decided to stay in the Traverse City area due to urgent need. He founded the congregation and conducted services in Old Mission, Elk Rapids, and Traverse City, often walking the distance between the parishes. Their first meeting place was the schoolhouse--a log cabin located where the Park Place Hotel now stands. Eight pastors had served by 1867 when the church was relocated. On January 4, 1898, the church was incorporated as First Methodist Episcopal Church. Thirteen years later, the congregation was reincorporated as the Central Methodist Church due to its new location at 222 Cass Street; and

Whereas, In 1938, two organizations were formed within the church that continue to this day. The Women's Society of Christ Service (United Methodist Women) and Boy Scout Troop 36 have a long history aiding the community. In 1944, the church reached 460 members, many of whom were serving in the Armed Forces. On its centennial in 1958, the congregation had 725 members, averaging 300 attending Sunday School and 383 in worship service; and

Whereas, On the 125th anniversary, the membership was still growing, reaching 1,155. The church underwent a remodeling project in 1984 to expand, which was completed in 1994. Enhancements were made to the Cass Street entrance and an elevator installed. Additional rooms were added, including youth rooms, an infant room, bride's room, a library, and the Gathering Place. Anonymous gifts in 1997 enabled the addition of the chapel with a stained glass window and the columbarium. The expansion of the church has facilitated more flexible use. The library is used for meetings and classes, while varied educational workshops and other activities take place in other rooms; and

Whereas, The congregation has made outreach efforts a top priority. In 1985, Stephen Ministry was created in an effort to help those in crisis situations as part of the Congregational Caring Team. A Health Ministry Team and a Visitation Team offer assistance to those suffering health concerns or loneliness. During the winter months, Blue Christmas visits those who suffer grief or sadness during the season. As Central United Methodist Church celebrates its sesquicentennial, its 1,230 members unite to promote the teachings of Jesus Christ in thought, word, and deed. The mission statement, "Reaching Beyond Our Doors," reflects Central's ministry to its congregation, its community, and the church worldwide; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That a unanimous accolade of tribute be hereby accorded to commemorate the congregation of the Central United Methodist church on its Sesquicentennial Anniversary and to express sincere appreciation for its rich history; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Central United Methodist Church as evidence of our esteem and congratulations.