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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N

**CONGRATULATING THE CONGDON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN PROVIDENCE,
RHODE ISLAND ON ITS 195TH ANNIVERSARY**

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Williams, Fox, and Hull

Date Introduced: May 20, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, The origins of the Congdon Street Baptist Church began in 1819, when a
2 group of African-Americans living in Providence held a series of meetings which eventually led
3 to the establishment of the African Union Meeting and Schoolhouse. The goal was to "establish a
4 place for people of color to both worship God in dignity and to obtain a secular education for
5 their children"; and

6 WHEREAS, After more than fifty years of numerous gains and setbacks, a new residence
7 for the church was attained and by 1875, the church, by a legislative act, was officially
8 proclaimed to be the Congdon Street Baptist Church. Since then the church and its congregation
9 have been beacons of love and truth representing the noble causes of religious liberty for all, and
10 equality for all of God's children, including people of color, the poor and those walking in the
11 shadows of life; and

12 WHEREAS, In the year 2014, the Congdon Street Baptist Church, known locally as the
13 "friendly church on the hill", is joyfully celebrating their 195th Anniversary under the direction of
14 Pastor James E. Dove. For 195 years, the Congdon Street Baptist Church has been a place of
15 love, hope and refuge for Providence's African-American and minority communities. In addition,
16 the Congdon Street Baptist Church has been a place where people from all walks of life can find
17 comfort by hearing the word of God and being embraced by a caring and compassionate
18 congregation; now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and

1 Providence Plantations hereby congratulates the Congdon Street Baptist Church on its 195th
2 Anniversary. We furthermore wish the clergy and parishioners much happiness as they celebrate
3 this historic anniversary on May 17th and 18th of 2014; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
5 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Congdon Street Baptist Church Pastor, the
6 Reverend James E. Dove.

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