

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 60

By: Branan, Coffee, Adelson,
Aldridge, Anderson,
Ballenger, Barrington,
Bass, Bingman, Brogdon,
Brown, Burrage, Coates,
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Ellis, Ford, Garrison,
Gumm, Halligan, Ivester,
Johnson (Constance),
Johnson (Mike), Jolley,
Justice, Lamb, Laster,
Leftwich, Lerblance,
Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers,
Newberry, Nichols, Paddack,
Reynolds, Rice, Russell,
Schulz, Sparks,
Stanislawski, Sweeden,
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution recognizing Bethany First Church of the Nazarene as having a significant impact on the community; congratulating Bethany First Church of the Nazarene upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, organized in 1909 with 33 charter members, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene began in the parlor of the girls' dormitory on the campus of what is now Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma. After meeting in the dormitory and then in a rough-hewn tabernacle, the growing group of members built a stone block building. This building held six hundred people – more than twice the population of the town of Bethany. In a few years it was

filled every Sunday. Many of the leaders of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene were instrumental in incorporating the City of Bethany; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene built a sanctuary to accommodate 1,000 people even though the 1920 census listed only 400 residents in all of Bethany. The church continued to grow. Church buildings were enlarged and ministry facilities built. The current sanctuary was completed in 1969 with a seating capacity of 2,500. The striking architecture with its towering arches has become an Oklahoma landmark along historic Route 66; and

WHEREAS, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene continues to serve the community through after-school programs, Angel Food Ministries, Celebrate Recovery, Reaching Our City Ministries, and serving as a center for many community activities; and

WHEREAS, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene has a rich heritage of sending and supporting the work of the gospel around the world. Currently, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene has taken on the challenge to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Swaziland, Africa, through development of key spiritual, compassionate, and educational resources. Swaziland has the highest rate of HIV/AIDS per capita in the world. The Swaziland Partnership is a cooperative effort between the Swaziland Church of the Nazarene, Swaziland Health Institutions, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and Southern Nazarene University; and

WHEREAS, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene's strong biblical heritage and commitment to compassion have established a strong foundation for ministry for many years to come. Eighteen pastors have served Bethany First Church of the Nazarene. Many are recognized throughout the denomination as outstanding leaders who helped build the General Church of the Nazarene; and

WHEREAS, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene celebrates 100 years of ministry on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Bethany First Church of the Nazarene as having a significant impact on their community, the state, the nation, and with its Swaziland HIV/AIDS program, the world.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Bethany First Church of the Nazarene upon the occasion of its 100th Anniversary and wishes it 100 more years of growth and community service.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to David Basic, Pastor, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene.

Adopted by the Senate the 20th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate