

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 60

By: Branan and Coffee

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

12 WHEREAS, organized in 1909 with 33 charter members, Bethany
13 First Church of the Nazarene began in the parlor of the girl's
14 dormitory on the campus of what is now Southern Nazarene University
15 in Bethany, Oklahoma. After meeting in the dormitory and then in a
16 rough-hewn tabernacle, the growing group of members built a stone
17 block building. This building held six hundred people – more than
18 twice the population of the town of Bethany. In a few years it was
19 filled every Sunday. Many of the leaders of Bethany First Church of
20 the Nazarene were instrumental in incorporating the City of Bethany;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, in 1925, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene built a
23 sanctuary to accommodate 1,000 people even though the 1920 census
24 listed only 400 residents in all of Bethany. The church continued

1 to grow. Church buildings were enlarged and ministry facilities
2 built. The current sanctuary was completed in 1969 with a seating
3 capacity of 2,500. The striking architecture with its towering
4 arches has become an Oklahoma landmark along historic Route 66; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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