

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Providence Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in
2 Nicholasville on the occasion of its bicentennial.

3 WHEREAS, the Great Awakening in the American colonies that began in the 1730s
4 was of profound significance, challenging religious authority while fostering a deep
5 spiritual conviction; and

6 WHEREAS, Lewis Craig, pastor of a Separate Baptist church in Upper
7 Spottsylvania, Virginia, organized in 1767, was jailed for 43 days for "holding unlawful
8 conventicles and preaching the gospel contrary to the law"; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Craig's arrest led him on a long, hard journey following an old
10 buffalo trail to relocate the entire congregation of 200 members along with the old Bible,
11 the communion set, and the church record books to the banks of South Elkhorn Creek in
12 Fayette County, Kentucky, settling there in 1783. He ministered there for nine years; and

13 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1817, members of South Elkhorn Baptist Church met at
14 Daniel Bryan's home, called Waveland, to discuss the idea of starting the fifth daughter
15 congregation in the area, and a committee was appointed to petition members; and

16 WHEREAS, on February 22, 70 members were dismissed from South Elkhorn to
17 constitute a new church, Providence Baptist Church, three days later baptizing the first
18 new convert, George Farra, and soon after calling the first pastor, Brother Jeremiah
19 Vardman, who served for nine years for an annual salary of \$37.50; and

20 WHEREAS, in April 1828 the church board voted to celebrate the Lord's Supper at
21 every worship service instead of twice a year and rejected doctrines and creeds following
22 the ranks of the reformers led by Alexander Campbell; and

23 WHEREAS, Jeremiah Vardman brought forth a resolution in 1830 to have
24 Providence removed from the Elkhorn Baptist Association, therefore causing Providence
25 to affiliate with the Christian Church; and

26 WHEREAS, erected in 1819, the first building was severely damaged in 1849 by a
27 tornado and rebuilt the following year. A schoolhouse was built on the church grounds in

1 1828, a new church building was constructed in 1917 in the adjacent lot, and a beautiful
2 new building was constructed in 2007 that merged antique artifacts from the church's
3 history with new furnishings and equipment; and

4 WHEREAS, Providence Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been an
5 important and active part of the communities of Jessamine County and southern Fayette
6 County for 200 years, serving through education, worship, charity, and volunteering, and
7 spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
10 *Kentucky:*

11 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes the 200th anniversary of Providence
12 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and commends the congregation for two centuries
13 of Christian service in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

14 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Providence
15 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
17 Resolution to Providence Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Providence Way,
18 Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356.