

RESOLUTION NO. 14-796

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised of the Lakeside United Methodist Church 2014 Harvest Celebration to begin with the signature Harvest Banquet to be held Friday evening, November 7, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ernest Knight Center of Alabama A & M University. The Reverend Keith Norman, Pastor of the First Baptist Church-Broad, Memphis, Tennessee, will be guest speaker. The 113th Annual Harvest Commemoration Sunday will be November 9, 2014, at 10:55 a.m. in the church sanctuary at 3738 Meridian Street with Bishop Linda Lee, United Methodist Church Bishop-in-Residence at Garrett Theological Seminary, as speaker; and,

WHEREAS, Lakeside United Methodist Church had its beginning on January 15, 1866. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased property on North Jefferson Street, downtown Huntsville, from Robert N. Davis and his wife, Williametta. The sum of eight hundred dollars was paid for the land, and a frame church building with a brick basement was erected on the acquired property in 1867 with Howell Echols as the first pastor. Two stories are told of the origin of the name 'Lakeside.' One story is that water stood around the framed church building most of the time. Another story is the church was named for Reverend Arad Simon Lakin, a missionary who came to Huntsville as a representative of the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church to help establish churches for the newly freed slaves; and,

WHEREAS, in 1878, the Church of Nativity, an Episcopal Church on Eustis Street in downtown Huntsville, was razed. They sold the 'old' brick which were hand made by black slaves to Lakeside for seven hundred dollars. The Lakeside congregation later received one-thousand dollars from the Board of Church Extension to build a brick church, the second phase of church development. The brick sanctuary was completed in 1886, and the basement of the church provided space for the first city-supported school for blacks in Huntsville (1867-1890), with Henry C. Binford, Charles Hendley, Jr., and Thomas Cooper as principals; and,

WHEREAS, a very important date on the annual church calendar is the Harvest Commemoration, a program set aside at Lakeside to give thanks. The occasion, when designed and spearheaded by Mrs. Mary Binford Jordan in 1901, was not only a harvest of the productions of Mother Earth, but also a harvest of souls. Like the original special day, the present day Harvest Commemoration focuses on worship, love, commitment and transformation, as well as God's gifts to all of us. It is the desire of Lakeside United Methodist Church to keep remnants of the past while reflecting on the future, emphasizing thankfulness, remembering the Great Commission and the contemporary desires of the new generation to seek dynamic praise and worship.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we congratulate Lakeside United Methodist Church and Pastor, Reverend Thomas Muhomba, PhD, upon their 2014 Signature Harvest Banquet and 113th Harvest Celebration. May you continue to be blessed and to be a blessing to others in our city and surrounding communities.

ADOPTED this the 23rd day of October, 2014.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 23rd day of October, 2014.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama