

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR BISHOP MICHAEL MITCHELL AND SUPERVISOR
CORDELIA MITCHELL FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE 12TH
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH.

Subtitle

TO HONOR BISHOP MICHAEL MITCHELL AND
SUPERVISOR CORDELIA MITCHELL FOR THEIR
SERVICE TO THE 12TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

WHEREAS, born August 4, 1960, in Perry, Florida, to the late Reverend Arthur L. Mitchell, Sr. and the late Mrs. Mary L. Mitchell, Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell is the ninth of fifteen (15) children; and

WHEREAS, while in high school, Bishop Mitchell answered the call to the ministry and preached his trial sermon at seventeen (17) years of age, on August 28, 1977, at New Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell began his ministerial training and study under the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in 1979 and an Itinerant Elder in 1981; and

Whereas, Bishop Mitchell's first pastoral assignment came in 1985 at the African Methodist Episcopal Church of the Master in Jacksonville, Florida, and he also pastored Greater Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal



Church in Arcadia, Florida, Saint Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tampa, Florida, and Martin Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Miami, Florida; and

WHEREAS, in September 1992, Bishop Mitchell was chosen to succeed Bishop Robert V. Webster as pastor of Saint Stephen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida, where he served the congregation and community faithfully for twenty-four (24) years; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell married Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell, the only child of Ms. Alice Rowe and the late Mr. John May; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell was elected and consecrated in 2016 as the 134th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Bishop Mitchell and Supervisor Mitchell were also assigned as the Episcopal Leaders of the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church which encompasses Arkansas and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell aided the leadership of the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to complete projects begun by his predecessors while Supervisor Mitchell supported the ministries of the church by working with and mentoring youth, promoting health and education, and ministering to incarcerated women; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell is actively involved in the social, economic, and educational needs of the community by serving on the Economic Recovery Task Force Committee in Arkansas, as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College and Jackson Theological Seminary, and as First Vice President of Turner Theological Seminary Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Mitchell is actively involved in many organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Bold City

Chapter of The Links, Inc., the Society for Human Resource Management, National Alumni Association of Spelman College, the Society for Human Resource Management, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

WHEREAS, as true servant leaders, Bishop Mitchell and Supervisor Mitchell possess a heart for the parish and the people which deserves to be honored,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate honor Bishop Michael Mitchell and Supervisor Cordelia Mitchell for their service to the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.