WHEREAS, the involved presence of Washington Street United Methodist congregations and clergy has positively influenced the lives of the people of the City of Columbia and the State of South Carolina for the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, early ministers of this church, such as Bishop William Capers in the first decades of the 19th century, engaged in extensive educational and mission outreach to plantation slaves in South Carolina and throughout the South; and

WHEREAS, Washington Street United Methodist Church was instrumental in the Methodist Church’s decision to establish Columbia Female College (now Columbia College), an institution of higher education that has produced many women leaders over the years; and

WHEREAS, as an active, long-term contributor to the social needs of Columbia and the State of South Carolina, the leadership of Washington Street United Methodist Church has been responsible for the establishment of vital community organizations such as the Killingsworth Home, the Bethlehem Community Center, and the Soup Cellar, as well as early sponsorship of a nationally recognized Boy Scout Troop; and

WHEREAS, 2003 marks the bicentennial of Washington Street United Methodist Church.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2003 as the

WASHINGTON STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BICENTENNIAL

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to congratulate Washington Street United Methodist Church on the occasion of the church’s bicentennial celebration.

Mark Sanford
Governor
State of South Carolina