

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2024

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4
5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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14 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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13 WHEREAS, Bishop Mitchell was elected and consecrated in 2016 as the
14 134th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 50th
15 Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;
16 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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10 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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