

Session Resolution
The First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, S.C.
Honoring
Ronald E. Miller

WHEREAS, the impressive organs that have graced the historic sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, have been played regularly during worship services and programs by only three men over the past one hundred eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, during the past thirty-five years of this remarkable record of dedicated service, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church has been blessed to have a most talented musician as its Organist and Associate Director of Music: Ronald E. Miller. Born and raised in rural northeast Arkansas not far from Memphis, Ron's arrival in this comparatively large university city was providential, thanks in large measure to his path crossing with a family of gifted musicians who for several generations have been and remain members of this church. When Fred H. Parker, our previous long-serving Organist was ready to retire in the early 1970s, Charlie Jones and his wife, Rhoda, were the tenor and alto soloists singing in the choir of the church in which Ron was the Director of Music, and they immediately knew why the Lord had directed their path to Blytheville, Arkansas: they had been sent to bring Ronnie Miller to First Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, although Ron arrived in Columbia for his audition painfully shy and reserved, it was quickly recognized that this most talented organist and musician was the right choice to succeed Mr. Parker, and, in the words of one member of our congregation "everyone loved him." Clearly, Columbia agreed with Ron. Soon after his arrival, several ladies of our congregation set him up with Henrietta Sanders; Retta become his bride and Columbia his home. Retta and their son, Ronald, have been and remain beside Ron in all of his endeavors, and we specifically recognize and appreciate their contributions to and sacrifices made for the music programs of our church during Ron's tenure; and

WHEREAS, as a recently retired career educator who served as the head of the English Department at Eau Claire High School, you may now find Ron spending even more time practicing in the sanctuary to perfect some special music he has selected for a worship service, or

working with the choir during rehearsals, or playing the welcoming hymn before the “Wednesdays at First” programs; and

WHEREAS, Ron always looks at life from the bright side; he is always upbeat with a humble, unassuming charm. He is a fun-loving gentlemen with whom folks enjoy spending time. Described by his musical peers as “cheerfully confident,” “always happy, even in rough seas,” and a “perfectionist in music,” he is tirelessly dedicated to his music, and he is hard working—practice, practice, practice—he loves to try new works, and it is the congregation who is blessed, each and every Sunday. He has the respect of every nervous mother and bride; indeed, they are confident with the wedding music firmly in his hands; and

WHEREAS, the Session, for and on behalf of the Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, desires to express its heart felt appreciation to Ronald E. Miller for his dedication and commitment to excellence in music of the First Presbyterian Church and in anticipation of his continuing dedication and commitment for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, in meeting duly assembled this 6th day of April, 2006, hereby recognizes Ronald E. Miller and, on behalf of a grateful Congregation, expresses its appreciation for his tireless, faithful and continuing service and dedication to the music programs of the First Presbyterian Church as its Organist and Associate Director of Music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be entered by the Clerk into the minutes of the Session, the Resolution be read to the Congregation and formally presented to Mr. Miller at a reception honoring his service on April 30, 2006, and a copy of the Resolution provided to Mr. Miller and his family.

Lanneau Wm. Lambert, Jr.,
Clerk of Session

Columbia, South Carolina