

**Resolution R-2021-04**  
**State Acquisition of Martin Methodist College Establishing a Fourth Undergraduate Campus of the University of Tennessee System**

**Whereas**, the City of Fayetteville is located in southern Middle Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, there is no public university between Memphis to the west, Chattanooga to the east, and Murfreesboro to the north; and

**Whereas**, four Alabama public universities reside across the southern border in closer proximity to most citizens in southern Middle Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, it is reported that 4500 Tennessee students are attending Alabama Universities; and

**Whereas**, when students leave southern Middle Tennessee to attend a college or university they are not likely to return to their communities where their professional skills are desperately needed; and

**Whereas**, Martin Methodist College has been filling the gap for more than 150 years; and

**Whereas**, the College is in a relative position of strength while limited in its capacity to serve the citizens of southern Middle Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, Martin Methodist College is a private college with a public mission; and

**Whereas**, the capacity of the University of Tennessee System and the State of Tennessee would be transformative for the College and the citizens of southern Middle Tennessee; and

**Whereas**, its citizens are tax paying and deserve the same access to affordable public higher education enjoyed by the remainder of the State; and

**Whereas**, accessible and affordable higher education is critical to the development of our economy and particularly in the rural areas of our State; and

**Whereas**, the state will receive the assets of Martin Methodist College at no cost.

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Fayetteville, Tennessee request that the General Assembly approve legislation to allow for the acquisition of Martin Methodist College by the UT System and establish an appropriate allocation in support.

**READ AND ADOPTED this the 28th day of January 2021.**



Michael T. Whisenant, Mayor