

**RESOLUTION
OF THE
SEMINOLE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS HONORING THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHULUOTA
ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

WHEREAS, soon after the close of the Civil War, a number of families from Whiteville, North Carolina, seeking new opportunities and spiritual fellowship, journeyed to Florida; arriving by boat in Mellonville (modern-day Sanford), then traveling by oxen and carts to settle northeast of Lake Pickett; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 1875, these pioneer families formally organized what was then known as Harmony Baptist Church, becoming what is now the First Baptist Church of Chuluota; and

WHEREAS, the church's earliest worship services were held in November of 1874 in the home of W. C. Jacobs, led by Reverends R. W. Lawton and George Gandez, before the formal founding in January; and

WHEREAS, the original church building was a log structure located approximately one mile east of Chuluota near Lake Pickett; and, in 1883, meetings were moved to a schoolhouse near the southern part of Chuluota; and in 1888 a newer church building was constructed and dedicated at what is now its present location on Lake Mills Road;

WHEREAS, the Sunday School ministry was established November 10, 1889, reflecting the church's early commitment to Christian education; and

WHEREAS, over the decades the church has grown, adapted, and expanded — including construction of a concrete sanctuary building dedicated in 1956, and the addition of an education wing in 1961 — always maintaining a presence of worship, service, and fellowship in Chuluota; and

WHEREAS, for 150 years, the First Baptist Church of Chuluota has been more than just a building: it has been a source of spiritual guidance, a community anchor, and a gathering place in times of joy and challenge; and

WHEREAS, the church's heritage is woven into the history of Chuluota and Seminole County, shaping lives and inspiring ongoing generations of faithful service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of County Commissioners of Seminole County, Florida, do hereby congratulate the First Baptist Church of Chuluota on their 150th Anniversary.

ADOPTED this 14th day of October 2025

**Jay Zembower, Chairman
Seminole County, Board of County Commissioners**