Donna Eccleston
Commissioner Pct #1
Jan Crownover
Commissioner Pct. #4

State of Texas *
*
County of Comal *

Proclamation

Recognizing First United Methodist Church
Texas Historical Commission Marker and Dedication

WHEREAS, the First United Methodist Church located at 572 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas, has been awarded a Texas Historical Commission subject marker designating the history of the church to be a significant part of Texas history; and

WHEREAS, in the 1850s, Methodism spread across South Texas and into New Braunfels where many German-speaking immigrants would be converted to Methodism. In 1853 a circuit rider, Rev. Henry P. Young, established the New Braunfels congregation as part of a circuit that included other German-speaking congregations in the area. This action was followed by the appointment of Rev. J.W. Devilbiss as the presiding elder of the German District, which covered all of Texas. Living in New Braunfels, Devilbiss trained ministers and gathered German-speaking converts to Methodism. In 1858, a church building was constructed in the Comaltown area of New Braunfels on Union Street. Among the converts was the Karbach family, who strongly supported the growing church community by hosting Sunday school, preaching and hosting camp meetings on their ranch. By 1913, the Methodist community had grown, the Karbach Memorial Methodist Church was constructed on West San Antonio Street. In 1916 the church was no longer on a circuit. Over the next decades, the church moved from German-speaking to bilingual to English-speaking; and

WHEREAS, by 1952 membership passed 500, and a new sanctuary was built on the San Antonio Street site. The congregation was renamed First Methodist Church. By 1980 membership surpassed 1,000. In 2005, to continue its mission of outreach, the congregation sponsored a daughter church, Gruene United Methodist Church. Today both congregations are thriving and continue to serve God and the people of the area; and

WHEREAS, a marker dedication will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at noon at the First United Methodist Church, 572 W. San Antonio St., New Braunfels, Comal County, Texas. Sponsor of the marker is the First United Methodist Church of New Braunfels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Comal County Commissioners Court, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Comal County, and the Comal County Historical Commission wish to commend you on your work toward receiving this marker and your dedication to historical preservation and recording the history of Comal County.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 14th day of January, 2016.

Absent
Sherman Krause, County Judge

Donna Eccleston, Commissioner Pct. 1

Scott Haag, Commissioner Pct. 2

Acting County Judge
Kevin Webb, Commissioner Pct. 3

Jen Crownover, Commissioner Pct. 4

Attest: Bobbie Koepp
Bobbie Koepp, County Clerk

COMMISSIONERS' COURT COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS