

**RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE FAITHFUL SERVICE & RETIREMENT OF
LITA M. SIMPSON**

WHEREAS, Lita Simpson has served the church of Jesus Christ in Mission Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in her professional vocation for over 30 years;

WHEREAS, she has devoted her life to the care, nurture, and spiritual formation of young people;

WHEREAS, in the course of her ministry, she has driven no less than 90,000 miles back and forth from the Valley to Mo-Ranch for Mid-Winter Youth Conferences;

WHEREAS, she has profoundly influenced the lives and faith of no less than 860 young people who served on the Mid-Winter planning team;

WHEREAS, the youth of Mission Presbytery have been profoundly touched by her presence, her ministry, and her faith;

WHEREAS, she has slept on too many church floors to count;

WHEREAS, in her work with young people, she has purchased 78,231 Sharpies; made 64 communion table cloths; led 832 prayer circles; eaten 2635 Hershey's kisses; created 9508 name tag badges; and eaten 178 plates of BBQ at Mo-Ranch;

WHEREAS, she has served the national church as a board member at Montreat and at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary; on the General Assembly Nominating Committee; on planning teams for Montreat Youth Conferences; as a member of the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association; and in countless ways beyond Texas;

WHEREAS, she preached the gospel at all times, and when it was necessary, used gentle, prophetic words;

WHEREAS, she has served as a Dorm Dean at Triennium, and thus ruined the fun and shenanigans of many a young person who missed curfew;

WHEREAS, she has witnessed the phenomenon of energizers being so enduring that they survive beyond generation;

WHEREAS, she can attest to the fact that it's Istanbul, not Constantinople; she can claim What I Like About You is that you walk 500 Miles Wavin' Your Flag because you want a Revolution; and she makes you Nod Ya Head with a "yes" when she asks, "What's Going On?"

WHEREAS, at times, she most likely confessed that herding cats would be an easier calling than shepherding young people, but much less fun and rewarding;

WHEREAS, she has planted countless seeds of faith and been blessed enough to witness their spouting, growth, and harvest – and seen some through from acorn to oak;

WHEREAS, she served as a faithful member, ruling elder, and staff person at First Presbyterian Church McAllen;

WHEREAS, she has been publicly serenaded on her birthday more times than anyone alive;

WHEREAS, she served as a resource center coordinator, making sure that congregational leaders in Mission Presbytery were equipped to do ministry;

WHEREAS, she has been supported with understanding over the years by her family when her vocation required her to be away from them;

WHEREAS, such absence from her family only strengthened their bonds, especially since it afforded her husband, Bob, time to go to the deer lease, go fishing, or photograph wildlife;

WHEREAS, she so tolerated the antics of middle- and high-school students and affirmed their gifts that she became known as “Mama Lita;”

WHEREAS, she has embodied her work and lived out her calling with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this 3rd day of March, the year of our Lord 2018, that Lita Mojica Simpson, child of God, child of the covenant, be sent out with love, gratitude, thanks, celebration, and blessings abundant to enter into the next phase of her ministry – that of retirement.

There will still be chairs to move, young people to encourage, songs to sing, leaders to equip, and faith to share...but well done, good and faithful servant.