**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE REVEREND DARREN PRINCE DIXON, TH.D., UPON HIS INSTALLATION AS PASTOR OF MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TIMMONSVILLE ON JANUARY 24, 2016, AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, the House of Representatives is pleased to learn that on January 24, 2016, Reverend Darren Prince Dixon, Th.D., will be installed as pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Timmonsville; and

Whereas, Mount Carmel had its earliest beginnings in the nineteenth century. In the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty‑two, New Church was established on Brockington Farm in Darlington County by its first pastor, Reverend William Brockington. New Church, later named Mount Carmel Methodist Church (a house of worship for both white Methodists and slaves), was the first Methodist Church in this area. As white and black Methodists moved out, black Baptists began to move into the Mount Carmel area and conduct worship services. As a result, Mount Carmel was organized as a Baptist church in 1868. Reverend Darren Prince Dixon follows a long tradition of strong and active Mount Carmel undershepherds who have built the church from the ground up; and

Whereas, born and raised in Marlboro County, Reverend Dixon is the youngest offspring of Earl and Belinda Dixon and the grandson of Leroy and Julia Walls and the late Leery and Virginia Dixon. Reverend Dixon has three brothers (Shawn, Duane, and Michael) and one sister (Brittany). On February 11, 1994, at the tender age of eleven, Darren Prince Dixon received his license to preach the Gospel, and he was ordained in September 2006. He is a member of Joshua Baptist Church of Dalzell; and

Whereas, he received his early education in the Marlboro County school system, graduating with honors. In further preparation for his life’s work, Darren Prince Dixon earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Sumter’s Morris College, once again graduating with honors. He then continued his education at the Morehouse School of Religion on the campus of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and completed a master of divinity with a double concentration in psychology of religion and history. In addition, he earned a master’s degree in theology at Duke University, his field being church history. Reverend Dixon also received a doctorate in theology from the prestigious Duke University School of Divinity. His concentration is interdisciplinary and includes history, theology, and psychology of religion; and

Whereas, although Reverend Dixon is immensely accomplished and believes in education, he holds that fulfilling the will of God is paramount and everything else is secondary; and

Whereas, he delivered his first sermon as pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church on the morning of September 20, 2015, teaching from Exodus 14:10‑14 and I Corinthians 2:9 on the topic “A Dawning of a Brand New Day.” The installation of Reverend Dixon marks the beginning of a momentous new chapter in the life of this noble church, and its members indeed may look forward to a future of meaningful fellowship under his leadership; and

Whereas, the House of Representatives, grateful for his faithful spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, takes great pleasure in wishing Reverend Dixon God’s best as he officially inaugurates his ministry at Mount Carmel and as he continues to run the race the Lord has set before him. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Reverend Darren Prince Dixon, Th.D., upon his installation as pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Timmonsville on January 24, 2016, and wish him God’s richest blessings as he continues to serve the Lord.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend Darren Prince Dixon.

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