**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND DR. CHARLES CHRISTOPHER HEYWARD, SR. UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF CONTINUOUS AND FAITHFUL SERVICE TO ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Whereas, after twenty years of dedicated service to the congregants of St. James Presbyterian Church (USA), Reverend Dr. Charles Christopher Heyward, Sr. will retire on April 30, 2016; and

Whereas, a native of John’s Island, South Carolina, Rev. Heyward is the son of the late Rev. St. Julian Heyward, Sr. and Mrs. Christine Capers Heyward; and

Whereas, Rev. Heyward is a graduate of Albany State University in Albany, Georgia, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration in June 1972. He later earned both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, prior to attending seminary, Rev. Heyward had an extensive career as an entrepreneur, operating his certified public accounting firm; and

Whereas, Rev. Heyward has served the Calvin Presbyterian Church (USA) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the St. James Presbyterian Church of James Island; and

Whereas, Rev. Heyward has brought visionary leadership to this congregation of more than eleven hundred members, the largest of the denomination’s African American congregations. He has created a number of ministries, including the church’s non-profit organization, the St. James Foundation. The church’s mission is rooted in Scripture, and reaches beyond the Charleston area to the nation and the world; and

Whereas, Rev. Heyward has served the church as commissioner to the Synod of the Southeast, commissioner to the national church’s General Assembly, moderator of national committees of the denomination’s General Assembly Mission Council, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Columbia Theological Seminary and of Presbyterian College; and

Whereas, in the community, Rev. Heyward is a member of the James Island Interfaith Action Committee and is a participating pastor in the James Island Outreach Ministry. He was a board member of Sea Islands Partners for Youth and the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM). Rev. Heyward is active in the public education issues of Charleston County, and has consistently taught entrepreneurship and male mentorship to middle and high school students; and

Whereas, Rev. Heyward is married to Rev. Carolyn K. Heyward, and the couple has three children, Gregory (Vickki), Charles, Jr., and Susan, and seven grandchildren; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate, grateful for the life testimony and consistent commitment and excellence Rev. Heyward has bestowed on the people of South Carolina, take great pleasure in wishing him well as he enters a much deserved retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate, by this resolution, recognize and honor Reverend Dr. Charles Christopher Heyward, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement after twenty years of continuous and faithful service to St. James Presbyterian Church.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Rev. Dr. Charles Christopher Heyward, Sr.

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