**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO HONOR BISHOP MICHAEL L. BULL, PASTOR OF ST. MATTHEW’S UNITED CHURCH, APOSTOLIC, OF DARLINGTON, FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS IN GOSPEL MINISTRY; TO THANK HIM FOR HIS FORTY‑ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY, AND OUR STATE; AND TO WISH HIM GOD’S RICHEST BLESSINGS AS HE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE LORD.

Whereas, it is entirely appropriate to celebrate those individuals who give tirelessly of themselves to nurture the souls of men. Bishop Michael L. Bull, pastor of St. Matthew’s United Church, Apostolic, of Darlington, stands among their number as an outstanding minister of the gospel, one much admired by colleagues, congregation, and area residents at large; and

Whereas, the fourth of nine children, Bishop Michael L. Bull was born to the late Leroy and Eva Bull. He was reared and educated in Florence and graduated from McClenaghan High School in 1973, later earning a degree in welding from Florence‑Darlington Technical College; and

Whereas, Mother Eva Mae Bull reared Bishop Bull and his siblings in St. Matthews Southern Church, Apostolic, in Florence. After moving to Darlington, Bishop Bull became a member of St. Matthews No. 2 United Church, Apostolic; and

Whereas, accepting the call to ministry in 1976, he was officially appointed a minister in the United Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, in June 1977 upon the recommendation of his pastor. After the passing of Elder English, Sr., Bishop Bull was ordained as an elder and appointed pastor of St. Matthews in June 1980; and

Whereas, upon the recommendation of his diocesan, the then Elder Bull was ordained as a bishop in 2004. Bishop Bull currently serves on the Board of Bishops for the United Church of Jesus Christ, Apostolic, and as diocesan for the 5th Episcopal Diocese; and

Whereas, Bishop Bull has received biblical training from Morris College School of Religion, as well as Gloryland Bible College. In 2004, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Pentecostal Bible College in Alabama. Bishop Bull is also a member of the Darlington County Ministerial Alliance; and

Whereas, a humble man who believes in sound Bible teaching and in leading souls to Christ, Bishop Bull sincerely loves God and the people he serves. On June 13, 2021, this godly man will celebrate forty‑one years as pastor of St. Matthew’s United Church, Apostolic, of Darlington; and

Whereas, Bishop Bull finds strength for his labors in the firm support of his family. Married to the former Barbara West on March 16, 1976, he and his wife are the proud parents of two children, Derrick (Nadia) and Shawntell. They are also doting grandparents to Avery Elijah, Landon Michael, Eva Brennan, and Jackson Tatum; and

Whereas, grateful for Bishop Bull’s many years of spiritual nourishment of the people of South Carolina, the House extends fervent wishes for God’s best in his life and ministry 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, honor Bishop Michael L. Bull, pastor of St. Matthew’s United Church, Apostolic, of Darlington, for his faithfulness in gospel ministry; thank him for his forty‑one years of service to his church, the community, and our State; 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 presented to Bishop Michael L. Bull.

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