**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE DR. BENNIE LEE JAMES UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS FORTY‑THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF PASTORAL MINISTRY AND TO COMMEND HIM FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO HIS CONGREGATION.

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are pleased to recognize Dr. Bennie Lee James upon the occasion of his forty‑third pastoral anniversary on August 8, 2021; and

Whereas, now a current resident of Lugoff, Dr. James has three siblings, Barbara, Ernest, and Patricia; and

Whereas, hearing the call to preach the gospel at the young age of fourteen, Dr. James was ordained three years later by Bishop C. L. McLaughlin, the presiding prelate of the United Churches of Christ; and

Whereas, on January 8, 1978, Dr. James accepted the call and responsibility to start a small church in McBee. Alongside Prophetesses Lyla and Lottie Mitchell, he opened the doors to what is currently known as The Living Church in the Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (The City of Hope). Now in its forty‑third year, the church maintains a strong and vibrant congregation; and

Whereas, with a desire for knowledge, Dr. James received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Benedict College, as well as a Master of Arts of religion with an emphasis in Christian Education and a Master of Sacred Theology Ministry with an emphasis in church history from the Lutheran Theological Seminary. Continuing to further his education, he received his doctoral degree in supervision leadership from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio; and

Whereas, with an already illustrious career in ministry, Dr. James also shares his knowledge as an educator and missionary. He was employed previously by Benedict College as a professor of religion for eleven years and is currently employed by Voorhees College in Denmark, SC, as an associate professor. In his missionary work, he has traveled to many places, as well as established churches as far as Liberia and Kenya; and

Whereas, in addition to his regular ministry and career in education, Dr. James furthers his responsibilities by serving as the presiding prelate of the Holy Apostolic Nation in the Apostles’ Doctrine, Inc., as well as serving as the chief executive officer of B. L. James Ministries; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the more than four decades of service in ministry that Dr. Bennie Lee James has provided and wishes to join with the congregation as they celebrate Bishop’s Day on August 8, 2021. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, congratulate Dr. Bennie Lee James upon the occasion of his forty‑third anniversary of pastoral ministry and commend him for his many years of service to his congregation.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Bennie Lee James.

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