**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH OF AIKEN ON THE OCCASION OF ITS HISTORIC ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY AND TO COMMEND THE CHURCH FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO GOD AND THE COMMUNITY.

Whereas, having been founded in 1904, Second Baptist Church of Aiken is celebrating its historic one hundred seventeenth anniversary in 2021; and

Whereas, for one hundred seventeen years, Second Baptist Church has been an integral part of the African American community of Aiken and the surrounding area. It has stood as a lighthouse, ministering to the spiritual, educational, social, recreational, and developmental needs of the broader Aiken community; and

Whereas, Second Baptist Church began its journey humbly in a small two‑room house in the 1100 block of Florence Street NW. The active membership at the time was approximately twenty‑two. Over the years, the church has been a pillar of stability, growth, and commitment, part of its commitment being to the mission of uplifting and improving the lives of the residents of the Aiken community. The present church building, located on Hampton Avenue, was designed and constructed in 1920 by the Reverend Jesse M. Miles, pastor, architect, and builder; and

Whereas, Second Baptist always has been an active participant in the life and growth of Aiken. The first Head Start program in Aiken was organized and held at the church, and Second Baptist youths were the first African Americans to take part in the citywide athletic church league; and

Whereas, through the years, God has continued to bless Second Baptist and the community it serves. Today, this vibrant church is shepherded by the Reverend Douglas A. Slaughter as the church’s eleventh pastor. Since the beginning of his leadership in September 1993, Second Baptist Church has been focused on the broader mission of the church to “Love God, Love Others, and Love Yourself” by initiating services and ministries aimed at meeting the defined needs of people in Aiken and the surrounding community; and

Whereas, as a result, in 1995 the Second Baptist Christian Preparatory School was established to serve preschool and elementary schoolchildren. In 1997, the pastor and leaders of Second Baptist Church established a twenty‑year strategic vision and plan to lead the church in accomplishing the mission God had given. During this period, Second Baptist Church (SBC) created teen and after‑school centers, purchased St. Paul’s Lutheran Church for school and offices, purchased and developed significant acreage, established the SBC Community Development Corporation, constructed over one hundred affordable homes and senior apartments, participated in the development of the Clyburn Center for Primary Care, and purchased and constructed a new worship center in the BI‑LO shopping center on York Street NE; and

Whereas, Second Baptist has been a beacon of light and a community worship center in the Aiken area for one hundred seventeen years, and, God willing, will continue its godly heritage for many more years of worship and service. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize and congratulate Second Baptist Church of Aiken on the occasion of its historic one hundred seventeenth anniversary and commend the church for more than a century of service to God and the community.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Second Baptist Church.

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