**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE REVEREND T. A. BELTON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS TWENTY‑SECOND 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 Reverend T. A. Belton upon the occasion of his twenty‑second pastoral anniversary in 2021; and

Whereas, a native of Ridgeway, Rev. Belton is the son of the late Ernest Belton and the late Annie Douglas. As a man of great faith, he was converted, baptized, licensed, and ordained in the Gospel Ministry at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Ridgeway under the leadership of Dr. John C. Williams; and

Whereas, in pursuit of a formal education, Rev. Belton began his journey in the schools of Fairfield County. He then went on to study at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina, before continuing to Shaw University Divinity School in Raleigh, North Carolina; and

Whereas, a dedicated leader and caretaker, Rev. Belton has served as the pastor of the Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church in Winnsboro since December 1999. In this position he has been driven to care deeply for his congregation, teaching and preaching the Gospel of the Lord. Through Rev. Belton’s careful leadership, the congregation of Zion Pilgrim Baptist Church and the surrounding community have experienced a spiritual restoration and a plethora of positive changes within their lives; and

Whereas, in addition to his many responsibilities within the church, Rev. Belton has spent three years as president of the Sunday School Convention of the Fairfield County Missionary Baptist and Educational Association; is the immediate past moderator of the Fairfield County Missionary Baptist and Educational Association, of which he is the youngest moderator in the history of that association; has served as a member of the executive board of the Educational and Missionary Baptist Convention of South Carolina; has served as the chair of the pastoral board of the National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc.; is a founding member and current president of the Corporate Clergy Fellowship of South Carolina; and works diligently with the sheriff’s department and the town of Winnsboro, as well as with Serve and Connect of South Carolina, to build and foster connections within communities; and

Whereas, dedicated and active as a preacher of the Gospel, Rev. Belton has traveled extensively across the country to both teach and preach the Word of God, as well as to facilitate a variety of workshops, such as “Women of Purpose: Working Towards Healthy Relationships,” “Church Ethics,” and “Deacon and Trustee Training,” among a slew of others; and

Whereas, Rev. Belton is known for his motto “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake”; and

Whereas, the South Carolina House of Representatives appreciates the more than two decades of service in ministry that Reverend T. A. Belton has provided and wishes to join with the congregation as they celebrate his twenty‑second year in pastoral ministry. 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 T. A. Belton upon the occasion of his twenty‑second 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 Reverend T. A. Belton.

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