**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR REVEREND WILLIAM SIMON JAMES, PASTOR OF BETHEL AND ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES IN KINGSTREE, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN THIRTY‑THREE YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE, AND TO WISH HIM CONTINUED SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN ALL HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

Whereas, it is altogether fitting and proper that the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina should pause in their deliberations to express their gratitude to Reverend William Simon James for his meaningful contributions to the United Methodist Church; and

Whereas, born on January 24, 1942, William Simon James is the son of Rochelle Evans James and the late Reverend Simon James, and under his father’s wise instruction, he accepted Christ at an early age; and

Whereas, he attended Wilson Chapel United Methodist Church with his family who later made their church home at Faith United Methodist Church in the White Oak community, and he graduated from Tomlinson High School in 1960; and

Whereas, in June of 1963, he married his beloved wife, the former Edith Fulton, and together they reared four fine children, Michael, Kimberly, Donny, and Connie, who have blessed their parents with five adoring grandchildren; and

Whereas, before being called to serve the Lord, Reverend James worked in the tobacco and cotton fields and retired from Baxter HealthCare Plant after thirty‑three years of faithful service; and

Whereas, when he felt God’s call to the ministry, he prepared by taking several classes at Williamsburg Technical College in Kingstree, Duke Divinity University in Durham, North Carolina, and Morris College in Sumter; and

Whereas, he was blessed to have the guidance of many ministers and other advisors along the journey to becoming a minister and the man he is today; and

Whereas, in 1980, he accepted the call to Jeremiah United Methodist Church in Hemingway, and a few months later, he added the charge of Mt. Seal United Methodist Church in Nesmith, lovingly serving these congregations for nineteen years; and

Whereas, Reverend James was assigned in 1999 to Shiloh United Methodist Church in Darlington where he served faithfully for eleven years before being assigned to Bethel and Asbury United Methodist churches in Kingstree; and

Whereas, after more than thirty‑three years serving his God in congregations of the United Methodist Church, Reverend James will begin a richly deserved retirement and be honored at a celebration on June 1, 2013; and

Whereas, the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives are grateful for the years of dedication that Reverend William Simon James has devoted to the United Methodist Church and wish him many years of enjoyment in his well‑earned retirement. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, recognize and honor Reverend William Simon James, pastor of Bethel and Asbury United Methodist churches in Kingstree, upon the occasion of his retirement after more than thirty‑three years of outstanding service, and wish him continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Reverend William Simon James.

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