

2004 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 416

Offered February 23, 2004

Commending Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Patrons—Janis, Bell, Hurt, Johnson, Landes, Lingamfelter, Morgan, O'Bannon, Reid, Suit and Ware, R.L.; Senators: Stosch and Watkins

WHEREAS, November 10, 2003, marked the 160th anniversary of the founding of Hebron Presbyterian Church, a landmark in Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, whose members have, from its founding, been dedicated to serving Christ by serving their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the original congregation was established as Dover Church in 1843 to serve a small group of families, including local physicians and prominent farmers living in western Goochland County; and

WHEREAS, since no Presbyterian church existed in the area at that time to meet the needs of the faithful, visiting pastors from Hanover, Richmond, and Louisa traveled each Sunday to conduct worship services for those families; and

WHEREAS, services were originally held in Webster's Church, which was built by the Society of Friends before 1840 and used by various congregations that "shall recognize the truths of the Christian religion"; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 1843, the Reverend Jesse S. Armistead, the Reverend James M. Allen, and the Reverend William S. Thompson were appointed to organize the newly founded church, and by their inspiration, industry, and resourcefulness the new church began to thrive; and

WHEREAS, three years later, in 1846, the name of the church was changed from Dover to the biblically grounded name of Hebron Church; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend James T. Paxton, a native of Rockbridge County, and the Reverend Benjamin G. McPhail, originally of Norfolk, became the first ministers to serve the church, and were succeeded in 1846 by the much-beloved Reverend James M. Allen, who over a period of eight years oversaw the transformation of Hebron Presbyterian Church from a small church with a few members to a firmly established and vibrant church family; and

WHEREAS, from its founding until the spring of 1846 the members, being without a permanent house of worship, held services in their homes, but on April 4, 1846, a new building was dedicated, where services are still conducted today; and

WHEREAS, for its first 160 years, Hebron Presbyterian Church faithfully shepherded its congregation and provided a true home to members, visitors, and the community alike, and during this, its 161st year, the church continues to thrive and add to the community that it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate Hebron Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its 160th year of serving Christ by serving its neighbors in Manakin-Sabot; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. David Wood, Pastor of Hebron Presbyterian Church, as an expression of the congratulations and best wishes of the General Assembly.

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