

## 2010 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 335

Offered February 23, 2010

*Commending Abingdon Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.*

Patrons—Johnson, Carrico, Howell, W.J., Kilgore, Morefield and Phillips; Senators: Wampler and Puckett

WHEREAS, around 1907, some interested people saw a need for a Baptist church in Abingdon, Virginia; funds were collected, trustees selected, and a lot was given by Captain Henley M. Fugate in honor of his son, the Reverend Henley Fugate; and

WHEREAS, interested people of all denominations in Abingdon assisted in the erection of the building, including James Bell, who gave the stained glass window located on the front of the church and has since been moved above the baptistery of the present building; and

WHEREAS, the Abingdon Baptist Church became the first church in Abingdon to be built before it had a congregation; and

WHEREAS, the first meeting was held on October 23, 1910, with Mr. M.M. Morris of Glade Spring acting as moderator, Mr. W.B. James acting as clerk, and Dr. J.T. Henderson of Virginia Intermont as the speaker; on June 15, 1913, the Reverend J.L. Watts preached the dedicatory sermon on a debt-free church; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon Baptist Church began to grow out of hard work and love, and even during the depression years of the 1930s, the Church, though financially poor, was rich beyond measure through God's love and mercy, and continued to grow with His blessings; and

WHEREAS, through those blessings, many physical changes and renovations to the church building have been made from a basement dug by hand to a new educational building; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon Baptist Church has witnessed 100 years of Christians living their faith in their community and reaching out to the world; as it celebrates the journey, the Church looks forward to marching through the years ahead with faithfulness to the traditions of the past and a vision for where God is calling it today and for tomorrow; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Abingdon Baptist Church on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. Steven W. Pollard, pastor of Abingdon Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for continued success on the momentous occasion of the 100th anniversary of the church.

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