

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Commending the Reverend Dr. Lehman D. Bates II.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, January 26, 2016

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Lehman D. Bates II, an exceptional spiritual leader and mentor who has touched countless lives in the Charlottesville community, celebrates his 10th anniversary as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in 2016; and

WHEREAS, a native of Ohio, Reverend Bates worked as a corporate consultant before he answered the call to ministry in 1987; he became a full-time pastoral assistant in 1999, then served as interim pastor at New Redeemer Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Reverend Bates became pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, and he has ably maintained the church's enduring practices of spiritual guidance, generous outreach to the community, and joyful worship in the Baptist tradition; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Bates is active in the local community and sits on the boards of numerous humanitarian organizations; he has been a crucial leader in efforts to end homelessness, build trust between citizens and law-enforcement officers in the area, and improve race relations at the University of Virginia and in Charlottesville as a whole; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Bates' leadership, Ebenezer Baptist Church has performed extensive mission work and expanded outreach programs; he has traveled to more than a dozen countries on five continents to provide care and spiritual empowerment to individuals in need; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Bates believes passionately that all the people of the world are one human family, and he partners with interfaith and interracial congregations to build mutual respect and unity; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church commemorated Reverend Bates' 10th anniversary with a special worship service and a fellowship reception on January 31, 2016; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Reverend Dr. Lehman D. Bates II hereby be commended on the occasion of his 10th anniversary as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church; 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. Lehman D. Bates II as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his contributions to the Charlottesville community.

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