

2016 SESSION

ENROLLED

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 106

Commending Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Agreed to by the Senate, January 21, 2016
Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 5, 2016

WHEREAS, in 2016, historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam celebrates 150 years of steadfast faith and ministry to its neighbors and the community through worship, fellowship, service, and outreach; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded in 1866 after a resolution adopted by worshippers at Mount Olivet Baptist Church resulted in the dismissal of the church's black members, who then formed their own congregation; and

WHEREAS, approximately 200 worshippers were the founders of Ebenezer Baptist Church; they first gathered at a nearby crossroads, and in 1868, the church moved to its present location where members built the group's first worship space out of logs and a brush arbor; and

WHEREAS, in the early years, Ebenezer Baptist Church was led by the Reverend Walker Quarles, the Reverend Slow, and the Reverend E.J. Smith until the Reverend John Clarke was appointed the church's first permanent pastor; a log cabin was erected, which soon was replaced by a frame church; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the Reverend Clarke, the first officers of Ebenezer Baptist Church were selected and the church soon became a vital presence in the black community in northwestern Hanover County, providing joyful worship opportunities, spiritual sustenance, and assistance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, in 1912, a new church was built and subsequently remodeled and expanded; in the 1920s, the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church played a major role in establishing a public school in the area; and

WHEREAS, other longtime ministers at Ebenezer Baptist Church include the Reverend E.E. Robinson and the Reverend D.J. Ragland during whose tenure multiple ministries were established serving the church and the larger community; and

WHEREAS, by the mid-twentieth century, Ebenezer Baptist Church's roots were firmly established; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, the Reverend Dr. John W. Kinney was called to be pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, and today remains at the helm of this vibrant faith community; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church has maintained a deep commitment to empowering young people, educating the saints, caring for all, setting the captives free, reaching the world, and restoring the earth; and

WHEREAS, as the members of Ebenezer Baptist Church celebrate 150 years of ministry and service, the church continues its mission to show love and concern for all people through its many charitable endeavors and transformative ministries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in 2016; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Dr. John W. Kinney, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's respect and admiration for its long history of ministry and outreach to the people of Hanover County and the Commonwealth.

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