

## 2017 SESSION

INTRODUCED

17105204D

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 919

Offered February 9, 2017

*Commending West Main Baptist Church.*

Patrons—Marshall, D.W., Adams and Howell; Senator: Ruff

WHEREAS, West Main Baptist Church in the Old West End District of Danville celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2016; and

WHEREAS, West Main Baptist Church was founded with 137 charter members in October 1941, and its first structure was a white frame house at the corner of West Main and Lockett Streets; and

WHEREAS, a new brick Gothic-style sanctuary was dedicated in 1949, and two educational wings were later added to accommodate the expanding membership of West Main Baptist Church; the church now owns the entire 400 block of West Main Street, including three parking lots; and

WHEREAS, due to its proximity to Averett University, West Main Baptist Church has enjoyed a close and harmonious relationship with the college's administration, staff, and students over the years; and

WHEREAS, with a congregation of roughly 525 members, West Main Baptist Church is a family of faith that has established a remarkable ministry of serving others through unique worship and mission outreach; and

WHEREAS, children and youth play a vital role in the ministries of West Main Baptist Church, which has employed a kindergarten/preschool training program for over 50 years; youth are also encouraged to serve in church leadership roles and participate in missions; and

WHEREAS, West Main Baptist Church provides mission opportunities for all ages at the local, state, national, and international levels, including endeavors such as Friends of Barnabas, Good News Jail Ministry, Habitat for Humanity, God's Storehouse, Belarus Ministry, and building churches in Hungary and Costa Rica; and

WHEREAS, West Main Baptist Church celebrates the rich diversity of all members, practices the grace and wisdom of Jesus Christ, and seeks to fulfill the mission of joyfully ministering to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of people in the community; and

WHEREAS, six pastors have led West Main Baptist Church during its history, and the Reverend Bruce Edward Wilson has faithfully served as pastor since 1991; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend West Main Baptist Church on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its founding; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Reverend Bruce Edward Wilson, pastor of West Main Baptist Church, as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's important history and vibrant ministry in the Danville community.

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