

## 2015-J2854

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson upon the occasion of his 25th Pastoral Anniversary to be celebrated on October 16, 2015

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in this noble Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who would commit their energies and purpose to the ministry of others; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to bring full recognition and just tribute to those individuals who distinguish themselves and the ministry through their unremitting commitment and preeminence of service; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson upon the occasion of his 25th Pastoral Anniversary to be celebrated at a party held in his honor on Friday, October 16, 2015, at the Grand Prospect Hall, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Gary V. Simpson has brought to his ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting his administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

WHEREAS, An amazing preacher and a loving friend, The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson served as the Pastor of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ, Brooklyn, New York, for 19 years; and

WHEREAS, A native of Columbus, Ohio, Gary V. Simpson was called to the Church at the young age of 15; it was at this time he preached his first sermon at the Southfield Community Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, In 1983, at the age of 20, Gary V. Simpson was ordained a preacher through the Eastern Union Missionary Baptist Association; and

WHEREAS, One year later, Pastor Gary V. Simpson earned his bachelor's degree from Denison University, Granville, Ohio; he then furthered his education by receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, Reverend Gary V. Simpson held the position of Associate Pastor at The Concord Baptist Church of Christ, a title he held for five years until he left to lead the Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, After a year, Reverend Gary V. Simpson returned to serve as the 10th Senior Pastor of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ on Sunday, October 7, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure as Pastor of The Concord Baptist Church of Christ, The Reverend Gary V. Simpson has not only preached the Word of God, but also encouraged the members of the church to aid several charities, including the Micah Project to feed the hungry, Habitat for Humanity to build and give nice homes to the poor, and donations have been made to flood and hurricane victims all over the world; and

WHEREAS, The Concord Baptist Church of Christ is recognized as both a tithing and teaching congregation; as Chair of the Fund for Theological Education, Reverend Gary V. Simpson provides a vibrant home for young ministers to learn what it means to become a Pastor; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, the Lilly Endowment, Inc. affirmed the shared gift of Pastor and congregation by awarding the church a major grant to establish the Concord Pastoral Residency Program, a transition into ministry program for recent seminary graduates; this vital ministry is enabling The Concord Baptist Church of Christ to make a major contribution to the preparation of the next generation of pastors for churches throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, The Concord Baptist Church of Christ hosted the Black Brooklyn Empowerment Convention which brought together community leaders to resolve issues of crucial importance to the black community;

and

WHEREAS, In October of 2006, the Concord Financial Literacy Series was launched in an effort to teach people how to break the shackles of financial bondage; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, The Concord Baptist Church of Christ has become involved in community service based programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, HIV/AIDS testing and awareness, blood drives, diabetes and hypertension awareness; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable religious institution has also partnered with Community Planning Board No. 3, Inner City Sports, the Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium, and P.A.L., as well as Angel Tree Ministries; and

WHEREAS, For several years, The Concord Baptist Church of Christ has run an elementary school, and during the summer months, it hosts a Vacation Bible School and the Freedom School for children of the community; and

WHEREAS, This distinguished man of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and has administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and corporal needs of all; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when a person of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention it is appropriate to publicly and jubilantly proclaim and commend that individual for the edification of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson, noting his unremitting and compassionate faith and his exemplary service to God, man, and his community, and extending to him the heartfelt best wishes of this Legislative Body for a future of purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Dr. Gary V. Simpson.