

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of New Iberia on its one hundred forty-second anniversary

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of New Iberia on its one hundred forty-second  
3 anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, with eighteen members, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was organized in  
5 1875 under the leadership of the late Pastor John Berry Livingston, a native of Enterprise,  
6 Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, original church meetings of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church were held in  
8 a little hall located on Weeks Street, adjacent to the present location of Mt. Calvary; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1891, Pastor Livingston, along with a committee, purchased a lot on  
10 the north side of Weeks Street, and a new church building was erected with a congregational  
11 membership of one hundred eighty; and

12 WHEREAS, Pastor Livingston was Mt. Calvary's longest serving minister, and after  
13 forty-four years of service, he was called from labor on March 18, 1922; and

14 WHEREAS, after his passing, God's shower of blessings were upon the church as  
15 the late Pastor Francis Marion Boley of West Monroe, Louisiana, was elected to serve; and

16 WHEREAS, Pastor Boley was instrumental in securing scholarships to Leland  
17 College for many young people of the district, many of whom were members of Mt.  
18 Calvary; and

19 WHEREAS, through his leadership efforts, the church was renovated in 1947 to  
20 include the addition of a new baptismal pool and choir stand, and the congregation grew as  
21 converts were added to the church by letter and by baptism; and

1           WHEREAS, after twenty-six years of faithful service, Pastor Francis Marion Boley  
2 departed this life on June 2, 1949; and

3           WHEREAS, on November 1, 1949, evidence of God's covenant faithfulness was seen  
4 when the late Pastor Harrison McKinley Jones became the third elected pastor of Mt.  
5 Calvary Baptist Church; and

6           WHEREAS, nearly a decade later, in 1958, Pastor Jones called a meeting for the  
7 purpose of remodeling or rebuilding Mt. Calvary, and upon favorable reaction to the plans  
8 by the congregation and the negotiating committee, the new edifice became a reality, and  
9 construction began for what is now the present church location at 414 Weeks Street; and

10           WHEREAS, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church was most appreciative of Pastor Jones'  
11 service to the church, and once again, human sadness was experienced at the death of Pastor  
12 Jones on August 22, 1972; and

13           WHEREAS, with God in their midst, members of the congregation were able to carry  
14 on until the election of the new Pastor Larry Wayne Norbert, Sr., of Lafayette, Louisiana,  
15 who was baptized and came up as a youth in Mt. Calvary; and

16           WHEREAS, with continued cooperation of members, faithful discharge of duties of  
17 the Building Fund Committee, and the encouraging leadership of Pastor Norbert, the church  
18 mortgage was cancelled on July 9, 1974; and

19           WHEREAS, during his leadership, other works done for the glorification of God  
20 were implemented, including the purchase of choir robes, a church bus and van, and several  
21 properties and buildings; and

22           WHEREAS, Pastor Norbert accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior at an early  
23 age on Resurrection Sunday at Mt. Calvary, and after thirty-four dedicated years as pastor,  
24 he passed away on Resurrection Sunday, April 16, 2006; and

25           WHEREAS, with the task of carefully searching for a new spiritual leader, on March  
26 6, 2007, Pastor Tracy Clinton Dewitt of Monroe, Louisiana, was elected as Mt. Calvary  
27 Baptist Church's fifth pastor, and his tenure lasted until June 26, 2008; and

28           WHEREAS, that same month, the young Pastor Jason Rex Tolliver, a native of  
29 Winnsboro, Louisiana, presently residing in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, offered his services  
30 to preach on Sunday mornings and teach Bible study until a new pastor was elected; and

1           WHEREAS, the congregation was so moved and impressed by Pastor Tolliver that  
2 a vote to consider him as the new spiritual leader was passed; and

3           WHEREAS, in September 2008, it was made official that Pastor Jason Rex Tolliver  
4 would become the sixth pastor of Mt. Calvary; and

5           WHEREAS, he followed a rich tradition of prior pastors and members who served  
6 in various leadership positions, and he was deeply concerned about the youth and their  
7 education; and

8           WHEREAS, under the leadership of Pastor Tolliver, on January 27, 2010, "The  
9 Vision" of the late Pastor Larry Wayne Norbert, Sr., started to become a reality, and Mt.  
10 Calvary was able to secure and close on the loan for the New Building Project and the  
11 remodeling of the Sunday school building located at 400 Weeks Street, which was  
12 completed in March 2010; and

13           WHEREAS, on February 27, 2011, the Mt. Calvary family dedicated the new  
14 multipurpose building with the dedicatory address delivered by Dr. C. S. Gordon, Jr.,  
15 President of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention; and

16           WHEREAS, Pastor Tolliver's tenure was from September 2008 until September  
17 2013, and during that time, he demonstrated outstanding leadership by putting his heart and  
18 soul into the ministry through faith in Jesus Christ, all while "Making a  
19 Difference...Changing Lives"; and

20           WHEREAS, on Sunday, September 25, 2013, with the guidance of Pastor Tolliver,  
21 Mt. Calvary Baptist Church elected its seventh leader, Pastor Mark Elliot Lewis; and

22           WHEREAS, the church has continued to see tremendous growth in attendance,  
23 financial support, Sunday school attendance, and youth ministries; and

24           WHEREAS, through one hundred forty-two flourishing years and the succession of  
25 seven pastors, God has not left the midst of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

26           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 commend Mt. Calvary Baptist Church upon the celebration of its one hundred forty-second  
28 anniversary and does hereby express best hopes and extend prayers for continued fruitfulness  
29 in faith and guidance by the hand of God in every endeavor.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
2 to Pastor Mark Elliot Lewis.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 42 Original

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Terry Landry

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