

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE