

## 2015-J6104

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Pastor William Gillison upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Pastoral Anniversary

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 custom 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 Pastor William Gillison upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Pastoral Anniversary in June of 2016; and

WHEREAS, A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, Pastor William Gillison was called into the ministry in August of 1980; in June of 1981, he became the spiritual leader of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Buffalo, New York; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Pastor William Gillison was instrumental in the construction and moving of the church into its present home in 1994; today, Mt. Olive Church is comprised of 1,200 faithful members, a chapel overflow, and 16 classrooms and an all-purpose hall used for lectures and dining; under his luminous guidance, the 20-year mortgage on the church was fully repaid in six years; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, Pastor William Gillison founded the Mt. Olive Development Corporation; serving as President, he and his staff have strived to help the community rebuild its housing and buildings for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable man is the Moderator of the Great Lakes

Baptist District Association, uniting churches throughout many cities in Western New York, such as Dunkirk, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Lackawanna, Albion, and Rochester; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Pastor William Gillison has held the title of Vice President of the Empire State Convention, Instructor in the State and Local Congress of Christian Education, and the Ecumenical Chair of the Black Leadership Commission on AIDS of Buffalo; in addition, he has been a vital member of the Board of Directors of the Erie County Medical Center, the Grace Manor Nursing Home Foundation, and Campus Ministries at the University of Buffalo; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his many achievements, Pastor William Gillison holds Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Jesus the Liberator Seminary in Buffalo, and the Triune Biblical University and Seminary in Kelso, Washington; and

WHEREAS, For his steadfast and unremitting commitment to his profession and community, Pastor William Gillison has been a recipient of numerous awards and accolades including the State of New York Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award, the National Conference Brother/Sisterhood Interfaith Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Community, Service Award by the Buffalo Lutheran Employment Service, Outstanding Service as Pastor, Preacher and Community Leader by Colgate Rochester Divinity School Crozer Theological Seminary, and the Erie Community College Community Collaboration Award; and

WHEREAS, He also was bestowed upon The Reverend Sandy F. Ray Award for dedication and leadership by the Empire Missionary Baptist Convention, and was named a Distinguished Citizen by SADOO Enterprise, Inc. and a Good Samaritan by The Samaritan Center; and

WHEREAS, Each week, Pastor William Gillison appears on "The Answer," a television program broadcast on Total Christian Television, and on "Just a Voice," a radio program broadcast on WUFO radio; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife, the former Antonia

Davis; his four children, Mia, Dwayne, Crystal and Russell; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Pastor William Gillison 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, 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 Pastor William Gillison upon the occasion of celebrating his 35th Pastoral Anniversary, noting his unrelenting 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 Pastor William Gillison.