

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION congratulating The Reverend Robert Walter Dixon, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement as Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Albany, New York

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 congratulate Reverend Robert Walter Dixon, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement as Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, to be celebrated on Friday, May 10, 2013, at The Century House, Latham, New York; and

WHEREAS, Having served in the pastorate for over 55 years, Reverend Dixon 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, Reverend Robert W. Dixon, Sr. has served in the pastorate for over 55 years; his first pastorate was at Central Baptist Church in Salt Point, New York, for 19 years, and in June of 1977, he became Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Albany, New York; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Dixon is a pastor and involved community activist; while in Salt Point, New York, he was an independent candidate for the Office of Mayor in Poughkeepsie, Vice President of the Poughkeepsie Middle School Board, and Vice Chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dutchess County Commemorative Committee; and

WHEREAS, Upon relocating to Albany, Reverend Dixon became more involved, visible and outspoken as a life-time member of the NAACP, and was recognized for his leadership qualities by the Albany Branch; he has received numerous awards from the community for his untiring work in the Capital District; a leader of leaders, he garners respect across all sectors of the community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dixon was very instrumental in the organization of the Police Relations Board serving as Chairman from 1984 to 1998; he is a former member of the Board of Trustees and member of the Capital Area Council of Churches, served as Chairman of the Albany Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, and former member of the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dixon was instrumental in the erection of the memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Albany's Lincoln Park; he is the former Chairman of the African American Clergy United For Empowerment Organization, member of the Salvation Army Board of Directors of Albany, and serves on other boards and committees in the City of Albany; and

WHEREAS, A retired Manager of Production Control for IBM in Poughkeepsie, New York for 28 years, Reverend Dixon had also served in the Armed Services, where he was stationed at West Point, for nearly five years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Dixon has been a member of the Central Hudson Baptist Association for over 55 years serving as treasurer and later as the Moderator; because of his faithfulness to the association, the

Robert W. Dixon Retreat Fund was established in his honor; and

WHEREAS, The longest tenured Pastor in the Capital District, Reverend Dixon served as President of the Empire Baptist Convention, leading an organization of over 500 churches, from 1998 to 2005; during his tenure as President, the organization saw a dramatic increase in involvement in civic activities; he provided a platform for future state leaders to share their views with over 5,000 constituents, demonstrating that there is a need for church and state to work together to address the needs and concerns of all residents of New York State; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his wife of 38 years, Georgia, their seven children and seven grandchildren, as well as their two great-grandchildren, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; 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 congratulate The Reverend Robert Walter Dixon, Sr. upon the occasion of his retirement as Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Albany, New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Robert Walter Dixon, Sr.