

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending The Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III upon the occasion of his 10th Pastoral Anniversary and 25th Preaching Anniversary

WHEREAS, The character and richness of religious and community life in the Empire State is nourished and fulfilled through the faithful concern and selfless devotion of those who 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 Lawrence E. Aker, III upon the occasion of his 10th Pastoral Anniversary and 25th Preaching Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, These significant milestones in Reverend Aker's distinguished career will be celebrated with a festive occasion to be held at The Steiner Studios - Stage Six in Brooklyn on Saturday, April 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York; in 2003, he was elected the church's eighth pastor, succeeding his spiritual mentor Dr. Harry S. Wright, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Cornerstone Baptist Church has continued to thrive under his able leadership; and

WHEREAS, Through the use of technology, online giving has increased stewardship; the installation of plasma screens in the sanctuary has enhanced worship service and, Reverend Aker's vision to reach more youth has led to the formation of "Friday Nite Fire," a contemporary weekly Bible Study for youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Aker has also inspired the Women of the Word (WOW) ministry, which seeks to spiritually nurture the women of Cornerstone and, in 2005, an additional service was created to provide parishioners convenience and another style of worship; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Aker has, in addition, led the church through extensive renovation to the exterior of the church edifice; he also initiated the Annual Cornerstone Golf Classic held every June and, in the near future the church will break ground to renovate its gymnasium and Community Center; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Aker was born in Oakland, California and was raised in Dallas, Texas; he graduated cum laude from Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications; he also earned a Master in Theology degree from Dallas Theological Seminary and a Master of Sacred Theology degree from Yale University and is currently a Doctor of Philosophy degree candidate at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Aker also feels blessed to have had the opportunity to study Biblical Archaeology at The Holy Land Institute in Jerusalem and to have had the opportunity to preach in Zimbabwe, Africa; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Aker and his wife and college sweetheart, Cynthia, reside in Brooklyn and are the proud and loving parents of a son, Lawrence IV, and two daughters, Karina Vivian and Nyla Victoria; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Aker 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 adminis-

tered 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 them for the edification and emulation of others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend The Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III upon the occasion of his 10th Pastoral Anniversary and 25th Preaching Anniversary to be celebrated on April 27, 2013, 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 continued purposeful success and well-being; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Reverend Lawrence E. Aker, III.