

**BY:** Senator COMRIE

**COMMENDING** The Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson upon the occasion of her installation as Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church on May 22, 2022

**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,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate The Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson upon the occasion of her installation as Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church to be celebrated on Sunday, May 22, 2022; and

**WHEREAS,** Karen Davis was born in Trinidad, West Indies, where she completed both her primary and secondary education before immigrating to Brooklyn, New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Karen Davis earned her bachelor's degree and master's degrees in arts and science from Brooklyn College; during this time, she volunteered and then held the position of Director in an administrative office at her alma mater and the Borough of Manhattan Community College; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition, Karen Davis was an active member of the Church of St. Mark in Brooklyn, New York, where she served on the vestry, Stewardship Committee, as a Eucharistic Minister, and a volunteer in the parish office; she was also a member and officer of the Young Adults, Choir, Usher Board, Sunday School, and served on Brooklyn Youth Ministries and a diocesan committee on lay ministries; and

**WHEREAS,** Following the loving example of faith set by her mother and grandmother, and after making her confirmation and attending a Cursillo weekend, Karen Davis answered the call to ordained ministry; in 2006, she entered the General Theological Seminary in New York where in addition to required courses, she elected to concentrate on preaching and stewardship; and

**WHEREAS,** The following year, Karen Davis married Noel Lawson, and they lived a beautiful and happy life until his death in 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** While at the Seminary, Karen Davis-Lawson served as a sacristan, in the schola (choir), as a chimer, and on the Admissions' Committee; in May of 2009, she received her Master of Divinity degree

and was ordained as a transitional deacon on June 22, 2009, and to the priesthood on January 16, 2010; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson then served at the Church of the Redeemer, Astoria (2009- 2011) and St. George's Church, Astoria (2009-2021), before assuming the role of the third rector and the first female rector at St. David's Episcopal Church, Cambria Heights, on November 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** In addition to her role at St. David's, Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson is actively involved with the Diocese of Long Island, serving as the Secretary of Convention and a member of the Committee on Dispatch of Business and the Disciplinary Board, a clergy coach, and a trainer in the Diocesan Church Development Institute; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson was the president and current member of the Black Clergy Caucus, and a participant of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Cursillo community; and

**WHEREAS,** When she is not helping someone, Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson enjoys traveling, singing and crocheting; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson has brought to her ministry an overwhelming spirit of charity and compassion, acting from vision and enlightenment in conducting her administrative and spiritual duties, while always displaying the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and dedication; and

**WHEREAS,** This distinguished woman of God has always given enlightenment, guidance and wisdom to the many entrusted to her 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 The Reverend Karen Davis-Lawson upon the occasion of her installation as Rector of St. David's Episcopal Church on May 22, 2022, noting her unrelenting and compassionate faith and her exemplary service to God and her community, and extending to her heartfelt best wishes 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 Karen Davis-Lawson, St. David's Episcopal Church.