

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAWYER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Pastor Gerrit Scott Dawson for his spiritual leadership of First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge on the occasion of his designation as pastor emeritus of the church

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Reverend Doctor Gerrit Scott Dawson for his spiritual leadership on the  
3 occasion of his designation as pastor emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Baton  
4 Rouge.

5 WHEREAS, Pastor Gerrit Scott Dawson joined the First Presbyterian family as  
6 senior pastor in 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson and his wife Rhonda have four children and seven  
8 grandchildren; and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson earned an undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt  
10 University, a master of divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary, and a doctorate of  
11 ministry at the Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

12 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson is the author of eight books, including *The Blessing Life*  
13 and *Raising Adam: Why Jesus Descended into Hell*; and

14 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson's interests include J.R.R. Tolkien, movies from the  
15 1940s, poet and minister George Herbert, the Miami Hurricanes, and Harry Potter; and

16 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson has tirelessly provided scriptural preaching, counseling,  
17 visitation and mentoring, and administrative guidance for the past twenty-two years; and

18 WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson guided First Presbyterian Church into its Evangelical  
19 Presbyterian Church (EPC) denominational home; and

1           WHEREAS, Pastor Dawson has provided rich and meaningful Lenten devotional  
2 guides, national leadership through timely and challenging matters for the EPC, and writings  
3 on spiritual formation that have guided and blessed the church across denominational lines;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church has experienced significant spiritual and  
6 numerical growth of all generations and has become increasingly generous and creative in  
7 its local and global mission endeavors; and

8           WHEREAS, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge gratefully  
9 bestowed the title of pastor emeritus on the Reverend Doctor Gerrit Scott Dawson on  
10 April 26, 2026.

11           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Reverend Doctor Gerrit Scott Dawson  
13 of First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge on the occasion of his designation as pastor  
14 emeritus of the church and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for his spiritual  
15 leadership throughout his career in ministry.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 213 Original

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Sawyer

Commends the Rev. Dr. Gerrit Scott Dawson for leading First Presbyterian Church of Baton Rouge.