

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE SAWYER

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES