

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 981

Commending Bishop Jerome L. Williams and Pastor Shajuan E. Williams.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, October 29, 2025

WHEREAS, Bishop Jerome L. Williams and Pastor Shajuan E. Williams have provided 25 years of faithful and visionary pastoral leadership at New Testament Church Ministries in Portsmouth; and

WHEREAS, Jerome Williams, a native of Portsmouth, has answered the call of ministry with passion, purpose, and prophetic insight, proclaiming his faith with boldness and clarity and leading one of the Commonwealth's most dynamic and growing congregations since 2000; and

WHEREAS, under Jerome Williams' leadership, New Testament Church Ministries has grown from approximately 75 disciples to more than 2,900 members and has launched over 40 ministries; and

WHEREAS, Jerome Williams is the founder of Changing Hearts International Ministries and JLW Ministries, through which he has raised spiritual sons and daughters serving in leadership roles across the nation and continues to minister through a weekly television broadcast that reaches thousands; and

WHEREAS, Jerome Williams' commitment to faith and community is evident in his service as vice president and director of Metropolitan and Provincial Operations for the Global United Fellowship under Bishop Neil C. Ellis, as well as his leadership roles with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Steering Committee, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, the Hampton Roads Ecumenical Council of Bishops, the NAACP, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Jerome Williams holds a bachelor's degree in religious education from Smith Chapel Bible University, a master's degree in ministry from Richmond Virginia Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Virginia University of Lynchburg, where he is also a member of the Leonard N. Smith Fellows; and

WHEREAS, Shajuan Williams, the executive pastor of New Testament Church Ministries and co-founder of Changing Hearts International Fellowship, is a dedicated servant leader, known for her grace, excellence, and deep spiritual insight; and

WHEREAS, Shajuan Williams was licensed to preach in 1997, ordained as an elder in 2007, and consecrated as executive pastor in 2010, and her ministry is marked by a heart for the lost and a desire to see others experience the fullness of joy in God's presence; and

WHEREAS, Shajuan Williams' messages consistently emphasize faithfulness, obedience, and empowerment, as she labors faithfully beside her husband, serving as a mentor, teacher, and spiritual mother to many; and

WHEREAS, Bishop and Pastor Williams are devoted partners in life and ministry, loving parents to their son, Jerrod, and proud grandparents to Journi and Jenesis, modeling a faith-centered family and tireless dedication to the call of God; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Bishop Jerome L. Williams and Pastor Shajuan E. Williams hereby be commended on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their pastoral service for their extraordinary leadership, service, and impact on the faith community in Portsmouth and beyond; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Bishop Jerome L. Williams and Pastor Shajuan E. Williams as an expression of the House of Delegates' gratitude and best wishes for continued blessings in their ministry.

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