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# RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR VALERIE CARTER SMITH

Whereas, Dr. Valerie Carter Smith retired January 31, 2025, after faithfully serving as Executive Director/Treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia (WMUV) since 2014;

Whereas, Valerie served in Virginia Baptist life as a missions leader since 1988 and has been a blessing to Virginia Baptists as Director, Hillside Center, Richmond, VA, 1988 – 1998; as Associate of Christian Social Ministries, WMUV, Richmond, VA, 1998 – 2003; and as Associate Pastor for Glocal Ministries, Bon Air Baptist Church, Richmond, VA, 2003 – 2014;

Whereas, Valerie acknowledges the influence of WMU leaders who mentored her since the beginning of her ministry journey in Virginia. Among these are J. Earlene Jesse, former WMUV Executive Director/Treasurer, June Bass at Bon Air Baptist Church, and Ann Brown, former WMUV president and chair of the WMUV Search Committee that led her to WMUV;

Whereas, her leadership included serving and mentoring marginalized women, inspiring women to engage in missions, strengthening multigenerational and multicultural ministry, and guiding WMUV through its 150th Anniversary, the publication of Roots & Wings, and the organization's rebranding of WMU of Virginia to HerMission as fitting tributes to the faithful WMUV women who came before her and a clarion call to the next generation;

Whereas, she published widely on missions and social ministry, presented papers and lectures from her expertise in missions and sociology, taught in higher education, and represented Virginia Baptists through national and international leadership;

Whereas, Valerie has served on the Baptist World Alliance, Commission Race and Gender, 2015-2020; as a Baptist Theological Seminary, Trustee, 2010-2016; on the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, Advisory Council, 1986-1989; and as a member, Association of Black Sociologists;

Whereas, Valerie has served as Adjunct Professor, Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Richmond, Virginia, and as Associate Professor of Sociology, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Richmond, Virginia;

Whereas, Valerie holds the Doctor of Ministry, Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, the Master of Science, Sociology, Virginia Commonwealth University, the Master of Divinity, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, and the Bachelor of Arts, Sociology (Minor: Religious Studies), Adelphi University, Garden City, New York;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Executive Board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, meeting September 9, 2025, expresses deep gratitude to Dr. Valerie Carter Smith for her exemplary service and leadership among Virginia Baptists and especially in the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, and offer prayerful support to her and her husband, Eldridge, in the next chapter of their lives;

Be it further resolved, we ask the messengers of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia meeting at Highlands Fellowship, Abingdon, Virginia on November 11, 2025, join in thanking God and expressing appreciation for her faithful contributions to Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia and Virginia Baptists.