

House Resolution 2310

By: Representative Ashe of the 56th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Reverend Gary Wayne Charles for his outstanding ministry;
- 2 and for other purposes.

- 3 WHEREAS, Reverend Gary Wayne Charles has demonstrated his commitment to teaching
- 4 the Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,
- 5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and

- 6 WHEREAS, Reverend Charles was called to serve Central Presbyterian in August of 2004
- 7 and was installed in November of that year; he initiated and guided the church through a
- 8 strategic planning process that led the church to a clear vision of its future; and he further
- 9 assisted the church to receive two grants from the Lilley Endowment to begin and continue
- 10 the residency program focusing on its urban ministry; and

- 11 WHEREAS, a native of Newport News, Virginia, Reverend Charles earned a bachelor's
- 12 degree from the College of William and Mary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union
- 13 Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia; and

- 14 WHEREAS, Reverend Charles married Jennell Elizabeth Piplico in May, 1976, and they
- 15 have raised two accomplished children, Erin Elizabeth and Joshua Joseph; and

- 16 WHEREAS, Reverend Charles has provided outstanding service to several pastorates,
- 17 including Wilmington, North Carolina; Newport News, Virginia; and Alexandria, Virginia,
- 18 where he also served as president of the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, a faith based
- 19 partnership with the Alexandria City public schools that provides school day tutoring for
- 20 at-risk first and second grade students and the recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Service
- 21 Organization for Alexandria award; and

- 22 WHEREAS, in 1999, Reverend Charles was awarded a grant from the Louisville Institute,
- 23 which he used to conduct research and write a book based on his 20 years of experience as

24 a Presbyterian pastor, which was published in 2001 and was awarded the Presbyterian
25 Writers Guild Angell Award for the best new book by a Presbyterian author; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2003, he authored a book with Brian Blount, *Preaching Mark in Two Voices*,
27 examining Mark's Gospel from a socio-cultural and literary hermeneutic, and in addition to
28 his books, Reverend Charles has written numerous poems and articles for such journals as
29 *The Christian Century*, *Journal for Preachers*, *Theology Today*, and *Lectionary Homiletics*;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Reverend Charles has served on numerous educational boards and has
32 continually demonstrated his commitment to theological study and providing educational
33 opportunities for others; and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to his congregational, denominational, and civic interests, Reverend
35 Charles is an avid reader, writes poetry, and enjoys sports and is an enthusiastic supporter
36 of music and drama; and

37 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message
38 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for his innumerable good works rendered
39 on behalf of persons in need.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body commend Reverend Gary Wayne Charles for his outstanding
42 service to the church, the community, and his family and extend best wishes for many more
43 years of successful fellowship and leadership.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
45 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Gary Wayne
46 Charles.