

## House Resolution 1458

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Evans of the 40<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 44<sup>th</sup>, Manning of the 32<sup>nd</sup>, Teasley of the 38<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing and commending Bishop Brian Keith Hodges on the occasion of his 15th  
2 pastoral anniversary at Gathering of Champions Church International; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, Bishop Brian Keith Hodges has demonstrated his commitment to teaching the  
4 Gospel, witnessing Christ through word and deed, and addressing the physical,  
5 psychological, intellectual, and spiritual needs of others; and
- 6 WHEREAS, he was born in Detroit, a loving son of Willie Lee and Pearlie Mae Hodges; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he found the loving, saving knowledge of Jesus Christ at a young age at  
8 International Miracle Gospel Tabernacle; and while garnering an appreciation for ministry,  
9 he began helping out at the church by cleaning restrooms, providing security, singing in the  
10 choir, and chauffeuring older members to church; and
- 11 WHEREAS, it was when he attended Burnette Baptist Church in 1992 that Bishop Hodges  
12 first accepted the call to preach his first sermon under the leadership of Reverend Dr. James  
13 Allen Caldwell; and
- 14 WHEREAS, Bishop Hodges moved to Georgia at the age of 20 where he met and married  
15 Margo Whatley, and through this union they were blessed with two remarkable children,  
16 Brianna LaShae and Brian Keith Hodges, Jr.; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he began ministry in Georgia at the Macedonia Baptist Church and First Corinth  
18 Baptist Church, preaching and teaching until he was asked to deliver a sermon for Antioch  
19 Baptist Church, where he was then asked to pastor; and
- 20 WHEREAS, Bishop Hodges led the congregation at Antioch Baptist Church where he  
21 established Sunday School and Bible study, created a youth department, initiated breakfast

22 for early morning attendees and leadership training and development, updated the PA system,  
23 and purchased the church's first keyboard and drums; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1996 he became the youngest pastor in the history of the renowned Big  
25 Bethel Baptist Church, now Gathering of Champions Church International, attended Beulah  
26 Heights University from 1997 to 1999 where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical  
27 Education, and initiated the first summer camp for the children of the church, a program that  
28 experienced phenomenal success and was a blessing to the church and community; and

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

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
33 the members of this body congratulate Bishop Brian Keith Hodges on the wonderful  
34 occasion of his 15th pastoral anniversary at Gathering of Champions Church International  
35 and extend best wishes for many more years of successful fellowship and leadership.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Bishop Brian Keith Hodges.