



SR0192

LRB103 31870 MST 60520 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Dr. William DeShone Rosser on serving five years as senior pastor at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Springfield; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser was born in Great Lakes on May 30, 1973; at the age of 10, he began working at Spring Hill M.B. Church; while attending St. Paul M.B. Church in Millington, Tennessee, where his father preached, he became a deacon-in-training; he graduated from the University of Memphis with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies in 1997; and

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser was licensed to preach as a Baptist minister in April of 1997 and ordained in 1999; he served as an associate minister at Oak Grove M.B. Church while residing in Orlando, Florida; upon returning to Memphis, he reinstated his membership at St. Paul under his father's leadership and served again as associate minister and ex-officio member of various ministries; he moved to the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) denomination in January of 2006 and was ordained a CME deacon and elder during the annual conference that same year; he received his Master of Divinity (Summa Cum Laude) from Memphis Theological Seminary in 2008; he served as

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 pastor of the Belmont CME Church in Mason, Tennessee until  
2 2010; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser received his Doctor of Ministry in  
4 Pastoral Leadership in 2012 with a doctoral project, More than  
5 Just Preaching: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the  
6 Development of Associate Ministers in the African American  
7 Baptist Church; he received the David G. Buttrick Certificate  
8 in Homiletic Peer Coaching Certification at Vanderbilt  
9 University Divinity School; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser returned to his Baptist roots and  
11 joined Historical Mt. Pleasant M. B. Church in Memphis until  
12 August of 2013 when he moved to Shiloh Baptist Church; while  
13 there, he initiated a scholarship program, refurnished the  
14 sanctuary and retired the associated debt, instituted the  
15 millennial Sunday school class, developed bereavement and  
16 benevolent policy with funding, began a DVD/Blu-Ray worship  
17 recording ministry, and trained and ordained three deacons; in  
18 February of 2018, he accepted a position at Pleasant Grove  
19 Baptist Church in Springfield to serve as the senior pastor;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser worked on a book and several  
22 compendiums to train and inform the next generation of pastors  
23 and preachers; he published a sermon illustration in the

1 African American Lectionary website and was a former director  
2 of the Dr. James L. Netters Certificate in Congregational  
3 Ministry Program and an adjunct professor in worship and  
4 preaching at the Memphis Theological Seminary; he has  
5 developed a program for Baptist church pastors to matriculate  
6 ministers from licensing to ordination; additionally, he has  
7 developed a compendium to effectively train and prepare the  
8 diaconate for ministry; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser is retired from the Memphis Police  
10 Department, where he was a crime analysis officer; he also  
11 served as a Police Readiness Entry Program (PREP) Explorer  
12 Advisor and uniform patrol officer; prior to this, he worked  
13 for FedEx as a station operations manager in St. Louis,  
14 Missouri, training specialist in Orlando, Florida, and  
15 secretary in Memphis; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Rosser has two children, William DeShone II  
17 and Camryn Jaeleel; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Dr.  
20 William DeShone Rosser on serving five years as senior pastor  
21 at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Springfield, and we wish  
22 him many more wonderful years; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Dr. Rosser as a symbol of our respect and esteem.