

Fondren Presbyterian Church (USA), Jackson, Mississippi

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Reverend Rims Barber has served as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and as an advocate for racial equality and social justice for sixty years; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber, a native of Chicago, Illinois, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1958 and his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America on October 3, 1962, and initially served at a Presbyterian Church in Davenport, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber came to Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964 in response to a request for ministers from the National Council of Churches, canvassing homes for voter registration in Canton, Madison County, Mississippi, that summer; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber returned to Mississippi in 1965 as part of the Delta Ministry and was heavily involved in school desegregation, voter education, and other civil rights issues, becoming the education director for the Delta Ministry in Greenville, Washington County, Mississippi, in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber worked for the Delta Ministry until 1977 when he became the Director of the Mississippi Project for the Children's Defense Fund, working there from 1977 through 1989, and continued his work with the Mississippi Human Services Agenda enabling the voices of the poor and oppressed to be heard; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Tougaloo College, Jackson, Mississippi, in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber has served the Presbyterian Church (USA) as moderator of Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church in Kosciusko, Mississippi, from 1990 through 2012, as a member of the National Hunger Council from 1991 through 1995 and the Mary Holmes College Board of Trustees from 1986 through 2003, and as Parish Associate of Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi since 1999; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Barber, with his wife Judy, have been faithful participants of Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mississippi, since the 1970s, participating in many activities such as pastoral care, Meals on Wheels, and Wednesday evening programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Session of Fondren Presbyterian Church (USA), Jackson, Mississippi, assembled on September 25, 2022, in Jackson, Mississippi, that the Reverend Rims Barber, on the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination, be commended and thanked for his sixty years of dedicated service to the people of Mississippi, to the Presbyterian Church (USA), and to Fondren Presbyterian Church and that Sunday, October 2, 2022, be declared Reverend Rims Barber Appreciation Day.

James M. C. Pitts
Clerk of Session

Joel Alvis, Jr., PhD.
Interim Minister