



- WHEREAS, in 1864 the practice of an integrated worship service was part of the Long Creek Baptist Church in the village of Dallas, North Carolina; and,
- WHEREAS, the membership rolls of Long Creek Baptist Church included 74 Black members who at that time were slaves and became members along with their masters; and,
- WHEREAS, these Black members worshipped in the “Loft” of the church along with the White members; and,
- WHEREAS, on July 4, 1868, three years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, E.H. Withers, Church Clerk and Brethern H. Jenkins and William Withers gave letters dismissing all Black members of the church to form a church of their own; and,
- WHEREAS, the Black members were granted use of the meeting house to worship the almighty God, whenever the White members were not using it, until their church was completed; and,
- WHEREAS, the granting of these letters of dismissal ended the era of joint worship of Whites and Blacks, and began the First Baptist Church of Dallas, North Carolina; and,
- WHEREAS, the First Baptist Church began on July 4, 1868 and struggled to gain strength in the early years; God blessed the early members and in 1922 a building was erected on the current site that housed both a school and served as a place of worship; and,
- WHEREAS, this school-church building was destroyed by fire and the first brick church was built in the early 1930’s and this new structure was impressive with two bell towers; and,
- WHEREAS, when this new church burned in the 1940’s, members worked to restore the church but changed the outer structure to that of one bell tower; and,
- WHEREAS, the last structure still stands today as a testament to God’s blessing of their forefathers and foremothers, and this facility is now used as a Youth and Community Center; and,
- WHEREAS, under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Roscoe W. Ramsey, Sr., a new church was built and dedicated on March 23, 2001 adjacent to the historic structure; and,

WHEREAS, the members of the First Baptist Church will forever stand on the word of God and endeavor, through the grace of God to provide a place, "Where everybody is somebody and God is All"; and,

WHEREAS, their beginning was humble and the struggle was real, God has blessed the members of First Baptist Church to celebrate 150 years from July 4, 1868 - July 4, 2018 and for that and so much more they will always praise the Lord.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes

### *The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Baptist Church*

and congratulates the members of First Baptist Church as they continue their mission of doing the Lord's work!

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jack B. Brown

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Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of October 2018