Recommendation III:
Resolution of Appreciation for Frederick J. Anderson

Frederick Jarrard Anderson, just “Fred” to the Virginia Baptist family, retired on June 30, 2017 as executive director of the oldest Baptist historical organization in any southern state, the Virginia Baptist Historical Society (1974-2017) and also the Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies (1999-2017).

Whereas, Fred, born in Georgia and educated at Berry College with graduate studies at the University of West Georgia, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and England’s Regent College of Oxford University, has preserved and taught the distinctive saga of Baptists in Virginia with understanding, impact, and easy charm.

Whereas, Fred, as first full-time director of the Historical Society since 1979, has become “Mister Virginia Baptist History” for our churches and leaders. As writer, he has written 1,157 heritage columns for the Religious Herald, biographies of our key leaders, histories of numerous churches, associations, and regions, and God’s Stories: An Illustrated History of Baptists in Virginia (2007). As teacher, he has presented more than 1,000 history programs for our churches, created a rich array of historical resources, and taught us by means of costumed monologues of a dozen Virginia Baptist heroes, portraying John Leland and William E. Hatcher in particular for a combined total of 500 enactments to an estimated 100,000 learners. As leader, Fred has more than tripled church records in the Society’s holdings, added traveling exhibits, led in the creation of the Center for Baptist Heritage and Studies in 1999, managed the University of Richmond’s archives, and established the Heritage Fellows’ program for select college students. As denominational resource person, Fred has served as clerk for the BGAV from 1982 to the present, as recording secretary for the Virginia Baptist Mission Board (1982-2014), as the first recording secretary of the Virginia Baptist Mission Council (2014-present), and as historian for Richmond Baptist Association (1979-2015).

Whereas, Fred’s professional excellence has been recognized with many awards, including the first Davis C. Woolley Award for outstanding achievement in state Baptist history from the Baptist History and Heritage Society in 1991, awarded again by the same national organization in 2002 and 2006 to spotlight the stellar work done by the Society and Center, and honored with the Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bluefield College in 2002.

Therefore Be It Resolved, that we, the elected members of the Baptist General Association of Virginia meeting on November 14, 2017, offer our appreciation for the life and work of Fred Anderson, and we pledge our future prayers for Fred, Nancy, and their family as they move into a new ministry era, and

Be It Further Resolved, that we ask the messengers of the Annual Meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia on November 14, 2017, in Hampton, Virginia to offer our gratitude for the anchoring ministry of Fred Anderson.