

1956

HOMER J. ARMSTRONG

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree the Reverend Homer J. Armstrong, minister of the Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan. He is a graduate of Drake University, earned a master's degree at Boston University, and pursued further graduate study there. In the interest of increasing his knowledge of men and affairs he has traveled widely in Europe and the Near East. After several successful pastorates he came to Detroit in 1952 and since then has been the dynamic leader of the Jefferson Avenue Baptist Church, and a participant in many phases of community life.

He has manifested a vital interest in the educational program of the American Baptist Convention, and is a member of its Board of Education and Publication. As such he has served well the cause of Christian higher education, student work, and theological education. In addition he has served on committees in charge of American Baptist publications. Since coming to Michigan he has participated in the work of the Michigan Baptist Convention, being a member of its Board of Managers, and active in its program.

His vision and interests have not been limited to his own denomination. He has engaged in the work of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, and has served on its committees on Evangelism and on the Family, and has been a member of the University Christian Mission. He has recently received appointment by the Council as Interchange Preacher for 1956 to the British Council of Churches.

Homer Armstrong has shown himself to be a successful pastor, a stimulating preacher and interpreter of the Christian Gospel, and a faithful servant of Jesus Christ, vitally concerned in the furtherance of Christian higher education. Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon him be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.