RICHARD CUMMINGS

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree the Reverend Richard Cummings, executive secretary of the Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches. He is a graduate of Colby College, received the degree, Bachelor of Divinity, from Andover Newton Theological School, and pursued further advanced studies at Harvard University.

He is a churchman with far vision, broad interests, and wide experience. He was born of Baptist misssionary parents in Burma, and has manifested throughout his life an active interest in the world-wide program of his denomination. He served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and of the First Baptist Church of Troy, New York. In these college and university communities he undertook a distinctive ministry among students and faculty.

In 1950 he was called to the post of Associate Secretary in the Home Department of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society. During his term of office he carried on an active educational program on foreign missions among the churches of the American Baptist Convention, and traveled extensively among the American Baptist mission stations in Germany, India, and Southeast Asia. He has aided the Board of Education and Publication in the preparation of its missionary education materials. He has also been active in religious radio broadcasting.

In April of 1956 he accepted the position of executive secretary of the Detroit Association of American Baptist Churches. During this first year of service he has shown excellent qualities of leadership, organizing ability, cooperation, and love for people. He has done much to coordinate and extend the work of the churches in this great metropolitan area.

Richard Cummings has demonstrated his worth as student, pastor, interpreter of the Christian Gospel, administrator and faithful servant of Jesus Christ. Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon him be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.