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June 7, 1954

CITATION FOR FRANKLIN DAVENPORT ELMER, JR.

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree Franklin Davenport Elmer, Jr., minister of the First Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan. He is a graduate of Brown University and of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. After several successful pastorates he came to Flint, Michigan, and has been the dynamic leader of the First Baptist Church there since 1943, and has been active in many varied phases of community life.

He has held important positions in the work of the American Baptist Convention, being a member of its Council on Christian Social Action Progress, participant in its Theological Conference, and editor for the Roger Williams Fellowship. He is active in the programs of the Michigan Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, and inter-faith groups.

He has become a recognized authority in the field of church architecture, is a frequent contributor to religious journals, is a poet of note, a radio speaker, and a world traveler.

Franklin Elmer 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 with the practical application of the Christian Social Gospel. Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon him be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.

Marion H. Dunsmore  
Professor of Religion