

## House Resolution 1041

By: Representatives Howard of the 121<sup>st</sup>, Frazier of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Murphy of the 120<sup>th</sup>, James of the 135<sup>th</sup>, and Heckstall of the 62<sup>nd</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Franklin Covenant Baptist Church on the occasion of its  
2 163rd anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the seeds which were sown by the loving and humble efforts of the devoted  
4 original worshipers of Franklin Covenant Baptist Church have blossomed, establishing a rich  
5 tradition and history; and

6 WHEREAS, Franklin Covenant Baptist Church was organized by Reverend J.H.T. Kilpatrick  
7 and Jonathan Huff on the third Saturday in March of 1848, with the first house of worship  
8 built on grounds donated by Colonel A.C. Walker; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Kilpatrick was a white minister and served as the church's first leader  
10 until the church's first black minister, Reverend Nathan Walker, was ordained and led the  
11 church as one of the greatest black preachers in the area at the time; and

12 WHEREAS, Franklin Covenant Baptist Church has grown under the divine direction of  
13 numerous leaders over the years and they include Reverends J.H.T. Kilpatrick, Nathan  
14 Walker, Lewis Carter, Dr. C.T. Walker, S.C. Walker, W.J. Watts, G.A. Pinkston, W.J. Mack,  
15 C.H. Davis, J.C. Deans, N.J. Watkins, M.E. Turner, J.D. Williams, George Williams, and  
16 James O. Strowbridge; and

17 WHEREAS, in the past 163 years, the church has had 22 pastors and associate pastors,  
18 ordained 76 deacons, and established three offspring churches, Spring Hill Baptist Church  
19 in Blythe, Adams Grove Baptist Church in Gracewood, and Green Branch Baptist Church;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the congregation of this church has compiled an unparalleled record of  
22 constructive, compassionate, and humanitarian service which it demonstrates daily through  
23 open minds, open hearts, and open doors; and

24 WHEREAS, members of Franklin Covenant Baptist Church have a sincere desire to serve  
25 the Lord and are wholeheartedly committed to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that this enduring example of God's message  
27 of peace and love be recognized and congratulated for its innumerable good works rendered  
28 on behalf of persons in need.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body recognize the rich history of Franklin Covenant Baptist Church,  
31 commend its 163 years of dedicated service to the Lord and community, and extend their  
32 warmest best wishes for its continued growth and success.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Franklin Covenant Baptist  
35 Church's Reverend James O. Strowbridge.