

## House Resolution 1496

By: Representatives Abrams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Mosby of the 83<sup>rd</sup>, and Mayo of the 84<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Cedar Grove United Methodist Church on the grand occasion of its 188th  
2 anniversary; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church was founded in 1828 by John B. Morris  
4 and his four sons (G. Watt, Elijah, Garret L., and Joseph), Allen J. Cook, and John Moore  
5 as a log chapel in DeKalb County, Georgia, on property where the Cedar Grove Cemetery  
6 is now located and was dedicated as the "Morris Church" in the Methodist Protestant Branch  
7 of Methodism; and

8 WHEREAS, Reverend G. Watt Morris was the first pastor of Morris Church, and the marker  
9 to his grave stands in Cedar Grove Cemetery where the pulpit of the original church stood;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, prior to the Civil War, black African slaves went to church with their  
12 slaveholders, occupied rear seats in Morris Church, and were also buried in Cedar Grove  
13 Cemetery; and

14 WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Morris Church leadership attempted to organize separate  
15 worship services and literacy and religious instruction for newly freed slaves; however, their  
16 efforts were unsuccessful, and they eventually succumbed to the attitude of the South and  
17 became a segregated church; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1872, a new frame church was built on property located at the church's  
19 present site approximately a mile away from the original church; and

20 WHEREAS, after the church's completion, a grove of cedar trees was planted on the  
21 property, and the 50-member Morris Church was renamed Cedar Grove; and

22 WHEREAS, by 1958, the congregation grew significantly as youth, women's, and men's  
23 groups were formed and classrooms and buildings were added to the church; and

24 WHEREAS, in 1963, Cedar Grove's prayers were answered with a new sanctuary with a  
25 seating capacity of 250; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1985, Cedar Grove built a much-needed Family Life Activity Center which  
27 has become the center of the Conley-Ellenwood community, providing vital adult and youth  
28 ministries and other worship and community services; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1979, the first African American family joined Cedar Grove, and it became  
30 a racially and ethnically diverse church in the 1980's and early 1990's, eventually  
31 transitioning to a church with an entirely African American congregation; and

32 WHEREAS, Cedar Grove has experienced some challenging times under the 33 pastors who  
33 have led the church, yet it still stands as a living testament of faith in God to survive as a  
34 place of worship and service in the community; and

35 WHEREAS, Cedar Grove, under the leadership of Pastor Danny K. Alexander, operates  
36 under the vision statement "To build a deeper relationship with God and all people through  
37 nurture, outreach, witness, and worship," and through its rich and storied 188-year history,  
38 it prayerfully strives to continue "pressing toward God's goal for its church and community."

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
40 the members of this body recognize Cedar Grove United Methodist Church on the grand  
41 occasion of its 188th anniversary and wish it continued success.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
43 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Cedar  
44 Grove United Methodist Church.