

## Senate Resolution 984

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Jones of the 10th, Davenport of the 44th, Jackson of the 2nd, Strickland of the 17th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Emmanuel Community Church on its 13th anniversary; and  
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Pastor Eric Suddith was recruited by the Stone Mountain Baptist Association  
4 to "replant" the Emmanuel Baptist Mission Church; and

5 WHEREAS, during the replanting process, the church continued to be housed and sponsored  
6 by Highland Park Baptist Church; and

7 WHEREAS, the church plant took a year's time to develop an effective core team, which  
8 then went on to develop a church replanting and facility building strategy; and

9 WHEREAS, in January, 2005, the ministry was replanted with 13 adult members and moved  
10 into Lorraine Elementary School with a new name, Emmanuel Community Church; and

11 WHEREAS, while at Lorraine Elementary, Emmanuel Community Church vigorously  
12 pursued God's will and purpose, spreading the Gospel of Christ and erecting its first unit  
13 facility for ministry within the community; and

14 WHEREAS, by the grace of God the construction process was launched after several  
15 strategic partners, including the North American Mission Board (NAMB) mobilization  
16 process, the Stone Mountain Baptist Association, and the owner of Georgia Construction,  
17 Clarence Hall, were sent to assist in the development, planning, and execution of the ministry  
18 strategy; and

19 WHEREAS, God sent over 500 mission construction volunteers from 60 churches spanning  
20 15 states to come to Georgia to assist in the construction of Emmanuel Community Church's  
21 first worship center facility; and

22 WHEREAS, in 2006, the new facility opened and became known as the very first  
23 predominantly African American church within the Georgia Baptist Convention to be built  
24 using volunteer labor in the state of Georgia; and

25 WHEREAS, God continued to be gracious and to "add to the church such that should be  
26 saved," and the growing ministry broke ground again in March, 2010, in preparation of its  
27 "Build Forward 2010" project; and

28 WHEREAS, the Emmanuel family was faithful and made pledges of support to build a 1,500  
29 seat sanctuary, a family life center containing Christian education space, a basketball court,  
30 a workout and exercise room, a commercial kitchen, a chapel, a connection café, a student  
31 worship and lounge center, a loading dock for its food pantry ministry, and a child  
32 development center; and

33 WHEREAS, once again, God provided several strategic partners, including mobilization  
34 volunteers from the NAMB to assist with the new construction project; and

35 WHEREAS, over 1,500 kingdom builders from across 30 states answered the call that God  
36 had placed upon their hearts and they again came to Conyers, Georgia, to assist the growing  
37 church; and

38 WHEREAS, the focus of Emmanuel Community Church is not just on building facilities, but  
39 also on building people who love the Lord, study His Word, and serve one another as well  
40 as their community; and

41 WHEREAS, the church's outreach ministries, including the Tender Care Nursing Home  
42 Ministry, the Upward Sports Ministry, and the Food Bank Ministry, which feeds over 250  
43 people on a weekly basis, are greatly serving to impact its community; and

44 WHEREAS, in 2012, Emmanuel Community Church launched its state licensed Early Child  
45 Development Learning Center; and

46 WHEREAS, God has blessed this church plant over the course of a few short years, and  
47 many have come to know Christ as their Savior; and

48 WHEREAS, of the 46,000 Southern Baptist Churches in 2013, the Emmanuel Community  
49 Church ranked 358th nationally, and ranked 42nd out of the 3,600 Southern Baptist Churches  
50 in Georgia in attendance figures; and

51 WHEREAS, today, more than 1,300 people worship Christ in its 70,000 square foot facility  
52 on its 22 acre campus; and

53 WHEREAS, today, Emmanuel Community Church still stands by its ministry strategy of  
54 connecting people with God, allowing them to grow in His Word, serving one another, and  
55 sharing the love of Christ.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
57 recognize the rich history of Emmanuel Community Church, commend its dedicated service  
58 to the Lord and community, and extend its warmest best wishes for continued growth and  
59 success.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
61 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Emmanuel  
62 Community Church.