

By: Veasey

H.R. No. 61

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members and friends of Great Commission Baptist
2 Church in Fort Worth gathered together on March 12, 2006, to
3 celebrate the dedication of the congregation's stunning new
4 facility; and

5 WHEREAS, Offering exciting opportunities for members of the
6 church and the wider community, the addition covers more than
7 91,000 square feet and includes a 2,300-seat sanctuary, a family
8 life and education center, and an administrative wing; and

9 WHEREAS, This dynamic church traces its roots back to 1984,
10 when a study was undertaken to determine interest in the formation
11 of a predominantly African American Baptist church for the
12 southwest Fort Worth area; the first members to join the church did
13 so on May 19, 1985, and by month's end the rolls listed 37
14 congregants; initially, services were held at the Danciger Jewish
15 Community Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Great Commission was originally sponsored by
17 Gambrell Street Baptist Church as part of its mission program, and
18 later, the young congregation was further assisted by cosponsoring
19 church Parkridge Baptist, which offered its facilities for worship
20 and Bible study; and

21 WHEREAS, The Reverend Ricky Armstrong served as the first
22 pastor of Great Commission Baptist Church, which has been blessed
23 with inspired leadership since its inception; succeeding Reverend
24 Armstrong in an interim capacity was the Reverend Robert Glass, and

1 he was followed in turn by the Reverends Jesse L. Rutledge, Adrian
2 Wallace, SeRyan Williams, Melvin Mayfield, Odell Theadford, and
3 Eric Arnold; and

4 WHEREAS, Led by the Reverend Douglas E. Brown since 1993, the
5 church has enjoyed remarkable growth, expanding in membership from
6 53 worshippers to more than 4,000; since Reverend Brown's
7 installation, the congregation has bought land and constructed
8 buildings at 7700 McCart Avenue, and it has developed outreach
9 efforts and ministries that currently number more than 40; and

10 WHEREAS, With the completion of this impressive addition to
11 the church's physical plant, the members of Great Commission
12 Baptist have gained a resource that will assist immeasurably in
13 furthering their mission and that will benefit countless
14 individuals in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
16 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate the Reverend
17 Douglas Brown and all those associated with Great Commission
18 Baptist Church on the dedication of their outstanding new facility;
19 and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the church as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.