

## 2022 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 438

*Commending East End Baptist Church of Suffolk.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 8, 2022

Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2022

WHEREAS, for 134 years, East End Baptist Church of Suffolk has provided spiritual leadership, generous community outreach programs, and opportunities for joyful worship in the Baptist tradition; and

WHEREAS, East End Baptist Church traces its roots to July 1888, when 26 members of First Colored Baptist Church left to organize their own church community; and

WHEREAS, Fourth Colored Baptist Church was established the following October with the Reverend L. W. Melton as its first pastor; the church subsequently changed its name to the Pine Street Baptist Church, then East End Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, East End Baptist Church has benefited from the outstanding leadership of 12 pastors over the years, including the Reverend Dr. Wayne D. Faison, who joined the church in 2014 and has helped the congregation continue to grow in faith and numbers; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, East End Baptist Church has been committed to providing resources and support to members of the Suffolk community in need; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, East End Baptist Church helped keep members of the congregation and the community healthy by hosting five vaccination clinics and plans to continue holding more as necessary; and

WHEREAS, East End Baptist Church has extended its humanitarian outreach around the world, by supporting children in impoverished communities in Central America and South America, as well as organizing supplies to send to refugees fleeing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began in February 2022; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend East End Baptist Church of Suffolk for its generations of service to the residents of Suffolk; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the East End Baptist Church of Suffolk as an expression of the General Assembly's admiration for the church's long history and legacy of contributions to the Suffolk community.

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