

Resolution No. 25-

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of Huntsville, Alabama, wish to acknowledge the Centennial Celebration of St. Mark – the Remarkable Church, taking place on August 15, 2025, and to honor the church’s extraordinary 100 years of service, which began in November 1925; and

WHEREAS, in September of 1925, the Rev. Mingle Fletcher led a revival in the old Penny Schoolhouse—now the site of Penny Cemetery—and would become the church’s first pastor. Under the pastoral leadership of Reverend David Cowthorn, a permanent structure was established on a half-acre of land, where the church remains to this day; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Rev. Amos Donaldson became the pastor. During his tenure, the church acquired additional land, and in 1950, a second sanctuary made of cement blocks was erected. Rev. Donaldson faithfully served for 33 years, during which the church experienced dynamic spiritual growth, a significant increase in membership, and the construction of a new sanctuary in 1972; and

WHEREAS, in December 1979, Rev. John L. Clay was elected as the seventh pastor. Under his leadership, the church expanded by purchasing more land, acquiring church vans, hiring a church secretary, adding education and fellowship wings, new auxiliaries, and building the current sanctuary. Rev. Clay is also the founding president of Huntsville Bible College. After 35 years of faithful service, he was honored with the title of Pastor Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Rev. Jeremiah Chester was called to serve as the eighth pastor. His leadership has focused on holistic discipleship—encouraging individuals to discover their purpose, grow in relationship with God and others, and contribute their gifts to serve a greater good. Under his leadership, St. Mark has added full-time staff positions to support its growing membership. St. Mark has launched a South Huntsville location and *Remarkable Español*, a Spanish-speaking campus, reaching Huntsville’s growing Hispanic and Latino communities, as well as *The Centennial Legacy Project*, with the purchase of neighboring land for the expansion of St. Mark’s Moores Mill Road campus; and

WHEREAS, since its founding, St. Mark Baptist Church has grown spiritually and physically through land expansion, new facilities, inclusive programs, and a Child Development Center with after-school care; and with a mission to serve Huntsville with compassion and generosity, the church offers impactful outreach including free laundry through “Loads of Love,” Drive-Thru Prayer, family events, holiday food programs, ICU baskets, Samaritan’s Purse shoeboxes, cold-weather items for the homeless, and the Movers for Moms initiative supporting mothers and children in crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, extend their heartfelt congratulations to St. Mark – the Remarkable Church on reaching this momentous Centennial milestone and offer deep appreciation for a century of unwavering service, community care, and spiritual leadership to the citizens of Huntsville and beyond.

ADOPTED this the ____ day of ____, 2025.

President of the City Council of the
City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the ____ day of ____, 2025.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama