

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 52  
HONORING RACHEL HANKERSON**

**WHEREAS**, this honorable Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis is saddened to learn of the passing of Rachel Lanora Hankerson esteemed member of the St. Louis community; and

**WHEREAS**, Rachel Lanora Hankerson was born on Tuesday afternoon December 18, 1973 to Elder John and Missionary Thelma McCain. She was the middle child out of 5 children; and

**WHEREAS**, she was raised in a godly home and was very close to her siblings. Rachel was a “Daddy’s Girl.” She followed the example of her mother in being an expert wife, mother and homemaker.; and

**WHEREAS**, Rachel was a fourth-generation member of the Church Of God In Christ, with legacy going back to Lexington, Mississippi (the place of the denomination’s founding). Two of her role models were her grandparents, the late Henry and Eliza McCain (Elder McCain was co-pastor to the late Bishop R. J. Ward of Kennerly Temple Church Of God In Christ). She revered and served her grandparents; and

**WHEREAS**, she was saved and later received the call to ministry as a young lady. In 1997 (during her college years), she became a licensed Evangelist Missionary under the leadership of Bishop E. Harris Moore and Supervisor Annie M. Franklin of the Western Missouri Jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, Rachel was an entrepreneur. She was the establisher of International Proof Systems, LLC a systems design and development firm, with a mission to improve antiquated processes and system, through advanced technology. She was an inventor, producing the world’s first computerized license plate/tag system; and

**WHEREAS**, she was an educated woman, graduating from Southwest High School in 1991. Rachel obtained her Associates Degree from Southwest Missouri State University, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science, both from University of Missouri at Saint Louis and a Masters of Business Administration from Webster University; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1995 Rachel met the then Pastor Elijah H. Hankerson III, who was pastoring Christ Temple Church Of God In Christ in Springfield, Missouri (this church would later merge with Timmons Temple Church Of God In Christ). It was a match made in Heaven. Because they had kept themselves pure through life, both wore white as they were wed by the late Bishop E. Harris Moore on Saturday, September 27, 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, Rachel served faithfully alongside her husband at Timmons Temple until they moved to Saint Louis, Missouri. In Saint Louis on January 3, 1999, they founded the Life Center International Church (LCIC), with her husband serving as pastor and she as assistant pastor (something which was rare to hear of in those days). But Rachel had the ministry at heart and worked untiringly as the church grew and moved to three different locations; and

**WHEREAS**, Rachel will forever remain as a part of the DNA of Life Center. She was the founder of LCIC’s Youth Department, Women’s Department, Family Camp, Marriage Retreat, Hallelujah Night, Apple Picking, Community Egg Hunt, Praise Dance Ministry, co-host of the radio, television and internet broadcast and so much more.; and

**WHEREAS**, after an unexpected, brief illness, Rachel suddenly departed this life on Sunday, June 20, 2021 at 10:30 PM at Mercy Hospital in Saint Louis with her beloved husband and children around her; and

**WHEREAS**, she leaves to mourn, her husband Bishop Elijah H. Hankerson III, her children Elijah IV, Raquel and Matthew, her parents John and Thelma McCain, her siblings, Jenice (David) Kee, Charisse, John and

Kenneth (Ebony) McCain. A huge aggregation of the McCain and the Banks family will miss her earthly presence. Her husband's family (the Hankersons, Reinhardts and Midambas) loved her like "blood," Esther Hankerson (Mother In Love aka "Oma"), Bruce Finney (aka "Grandpa Boo"), Noah Midamba (aka "Baba"), a special uncle and aunt, James and Miriam Midamba. Mourning her loss are her nieces and nephews: Shaquil, Amirah, Kamillah, Mikal, Farah, Salaheddin, Alisha and William Henry.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that upon learning of the passing of Rachel Lanora Hankerson. we pause to add our names to the rolls of people grieving her loss, but celebrating her extraordinary life. We further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a memorial copy to the end that it may be presented at a time and place and to those deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

**Introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021, by:**  
**The Honorable Shameem Clark-Hubbard, Alderwoman 26<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**The Honorable Lewis Reed, President, Board of Aldermen**

**Adopted the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2021, as attested by:**

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**Terry Kennedy**  
**Clerk, Board of Aldermen**

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**Lewis E. Reed**  
**President, Board of Aldermen**