

**Resolution Number 179**  
**The 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Centenary United Methodist Church**

**WHEREAS**, we are delighted to pause in our deliberations to recognize the members, present and past, of the Centenary United Methodist Church on the occasion of their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centenary United Methodist Church has been providing ministry to the downtown and metropolitan St. Louis since 1839. Initially, the church was funded by the hard work of the ladies “society”, and therefore was known as the “Ladies Church”; and

**WHEREAS**, when many congregations were moving out west, Centenary made the decision to stay in its downtown location on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1900, allowing the church to serve thousands of servicemen during World War II due to its close proximity to Union Station; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1990’s, Centenary made a commitment to welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, marital status, age or sexual orientation, making it the first Reconciling Congregation of the United Methodist Church in St. Louis; and

**WHEREAS**, today’s mission statement is: “Centenary United Methodist Church is a church of neighbors, committed to serving all people whom God has placed in our midst through our caring presence and mindful actions as demonstrated in the life of Jesus”; and

**WHEREAS**, through 175 years, Centenary has been instrumental in starting new Methodist congregations, new service agencies, and assisting individuals who are called to the ministry, including three pastors who became Bishops in the Methodist church; for many years, the building housed the offices of the Missouri Methodist Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the Centenary hosts the “Bridge” ministry who provides meals, rest, and access to services to those in need. In essence, “if you breathe you are welcome.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that being informed of the upcoming anniversary party and wishing to add our sincere congratulations we pause in our deliberations to express our appreciation. 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 commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014 by:

**Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7<sup>th</sup> Ward**  
**Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President St. Louis City Board of Aldermen**

Adopted this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014 as attested by

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen