

RESOLUTION No. 85
Reverend Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., a dedicated and faithful servant of God, was born in Roanoke, Virginia on February 14th, 1927, the eldest son of the Reverend and Mrs. Samuel W. Hylton, Sr., and grew up in a Christian home with his siblings Janice Hylton Hale and the late Kenneth Niles Hylton; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and was baptized at the age of nine years old, and continued his Christian training at the Loudon Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Roanoke, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton studied at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received his bachelor's degree in history and political science, and while at Morehouse he became a friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton continued his studies at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he received his master of divinity degree and an honorary doctorate of divinity, and went on to earn his doctorate of ministry degree from Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, after serving as the assistant pastor at the Second Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, Reverend Hylton became pastor of Cleveland Avenue Christian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and in 1961, Reverend Hylton became pastor of Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis where he faithfully served for thirty-six years until his retirement, and thereafter he continued with God's work by serving as Centennial Christian Church's pastor emeritus and working with the Christian Church Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton's contributions to the life and community of Centennial Christian Church include, among numerous others, increased Church membership, the establishment of the Genesis of the Youth Retreat, Centennial's Head Start Center, the purchase of Centennial Homes, and the establishment of a social services center which provided food, clothing, and counseling for the disadvantaged, The Delta Sigma Theta Centennial Literacy Center in partnership with the National Benevolent Association, and the development of three senior housing properties, the Centennial Plaza, Hylton Point and Hylton Point II Apartments; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton actively served at all levels of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as Vice Moderator of the Christian Church, President of the National Convocation, Chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee, National Benevolent Association member, member of the General Board and the Task Force of Renewal and Structural Reform of the Christian Church, and member of the board of directors of the Christian Board of Publication, and Pension Fund; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hylton was a tireless leader in the community including serving on the Board of Directors of Central Medical Center and as chairman of the adoption committee, Founding President of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition, Vice President of Interfaith Partnership,

Chairman of the St. Louis Public School Task Force on Violence and Co-Chair of the School Tax Committee, the Black Leadership Roundtable, Veiled Prophet Fair Executive Committee member, Southeast Missouri State University Board of Regents and Culver-Stockton College Board of Regents, board of directors of the St. Louis Art Museum, and the board of directors of Mid America Transplant Association;

WHEREAS, the awards Reverend Hylton received for his efforts are numerous, including among them, Omega Psi Phi Citizen of the Year, The National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Liberation and Preston Taylor Living Legacy, Eden Theological Seminary Reinhold Niebuhr Servanthood, Institute of Peace and Elder of Justice, Sigma Gamma Rho and Annie Malone Children’s Home Community Service, National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Outstanding Achievement, Christian Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumnus, Recipient of St. Andrews the 2007 Ageless and Remarkable St. Louis Citizen, and St. Louis Morehouse College Parents Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., was freed from this life to receive his heavenly reward on July 4, 2018, and leaves behind, to carry on his legacy his loving wife of 63 years, Mildred McLeod Hylton, son Samuel W. Hylton, III of Dallas, Texas, and daughter Karen Elizabeth Hylton, of St. Louis, and grandchildren Sedric L. Hylton, Chastity E. Hylton and Chelsea E. Hylton, all of Dallas, Texas, his cherished sister Janice Hylton Hale, of Roanoke, Virginia, and his brother and sister-in-law Bruce and Betty McLeod, of Las Vegas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that upon learning of the passing of this distinguished St. Louisan, and wishing to add our names to the rolls of people grieving over his loss, we pause to recognize and celebrate the life of the Reverend Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., and acknowledge his accomplishments and contributions to the Centennial Christian Church and the City of St. Louis. 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 to the family of Dr. Samuel W. Hylton, Jr., at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced this 13th day of July, 2018 by:

The Honorable Terry Kennedy, 18th Ward

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2018 as attested by:

Louis C. Galli
Legal Counsel / Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen