

RESOLUTION NUMBER 135

The 40th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis began in October 1973. Their first worship service was held at the Berea Presbyterian Church at 3010 Olive Street. This October 28th worship service was attended by about a dozen people and was affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). They received our MCC charter in April 21, 1974. At the time, MCC had about sixty congregations or missions. St. Louis had no organized “homosexual” organization existing at that time; and

WHEREAS, by December 23, 1974, the group of about 150 members had purchased a home in the Central West End. The acquisition of the house at 5108 Waterman, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, was believed to “mark the first time in Missouri that any self-proclaimed homosexual group has owned its own facilities.”; and

WHEREAS, several years later, in 1984, they purchased a beautiful, old church building near downtown St. Louis, in the Lafayette area. Constructed in 1870 as St. John's Episcopal Church, the 1120 Dolman building was taken over by the St. Mary's Assumption Ukrainian Rite congregation early in the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990's, they sold the Dolman property because of financial considerations. In 1997, they leased space at the St. John's Methodist Church on Washington Place, in the Central West End. They continued to meet social challenges and church changes. Soon after moving to the rented space we experienced a big growth spurt. They became even more visible in the community and collaborated with many other organizations. In addition to continuing to work with LGBT groups, they began a partnership with a city group called MCU – Metropolitan Congregations United, an interfaith, ecumenical organization dealing with political and social issues in St. Louis city, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, in the 2000s, they began a search for a new, permanent home. On January 1, 2007, they left they rented space on Washington Blvd. and (temporarily) moved our worship service to a catering hall in Soulard. On the day of that move, someone noticed a “for sale” sign at their current building, just a dozen blocks away, ultimately resulting in the acquisition of the property; and

WHEREAS, during this time, they became more diverse, increasing African American, transgender and straight membership, allowing them to do more diverse community outreach. They expanded our offerings for children and young adult programs. They participated in numerous community events, with substantial involvement in the AIDS Walk, Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) events, St. Louis Pride, and Komen Race for the Cure. We've supported and worked with groups like HRC, Food Outreach, Gateway Men's Chorus, Charis, Band Together and Black Pride Festival; and

WHEREAS, most recently, their much-celebrated choir won the 2011 Verizon Wireless Regional Competition for Gospel Choirs called “How Sweet the Sound.” In 2012, our church received recognition from Interfaith Power and Light as a “Cool Congregation” for our green and sustainability programs and projects.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Saint Louis and we direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to further 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 on the 11th day of October, 2013 by:

Honorable Phyllis Young, Alderwoman 7th Ward

Adopted this the 11th day of October, 2013 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen