

RESOLUTION NUMBER 62

150th Anniversary of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, in 1859, during the pastoral leadership of the Reverend John Richard Anderson at the Second Baptist Church, in the homes of Mother Lucy Crawford and Mother Hannah Cabelle, the birth of a new Christian fellowship took place. Members of the rather new Second Colored Baptist Church (Central Baptist Church), along with other interested persons joined together in these homes to seek through prayer, spiritual guidance and direction. A fervent desire for a regular meeting facility and as well for the establishment of a formal organization grew out of these meetings. These were the earliest and humble beginnings of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, it was organized as the Mount Zion Baptist Church, becoming one of the oldest African American congregations in the city. Under the able and effective leadership of their fore parents, the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church became a strong and viable religious force within the life and history of St. Louis and America. The first pastor to serve this congregation was the Reverend Wyatt Scott. The very first facility to house this congregation was provided by the gracious and generous effort of Mother Rosie Ross, a log cabin donated by a white family who were the slavers of Sister Ross and who supported her efforts on behalf of this newly organized African American Baptist Church. This building was located east of Jefferson Avenue at Papin Street; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to Pastor Scott's leadership, the pulpit was assumed by the Reverend Slater. Under his pastoral leadership, the congregation began the purchase of a new church facility located at 2624 Papin Street. Also, serving in this early period were the Reverend Burns and the Reverend J. P. Nichols; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Humphrey next assumed the pastoral charge of the Mount Zion congregation. Next to assume the pastoral leadership as the Reverend J. W. Powell. Under his leadership, the mortgage on the church property at 2624 Papin Street was liquidated. Also among this group of early church leaders was the Reverend G. W. Benton. The Reverend William H. Harris was next to assume the reins of this historic church family. However, at the close of his administration, the Mount Zion Baptist Church gave birth to her first daughter, the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, in 1919, the Reverend J. W. Brown accepted the call for pastoral leadership and it was during his ministry that 2624 Papin Street was sold and property was purchased and the first phase of the new church facility was completed in 1923. He served the congregation for six additional years; and

WHEREAS, in 1929, the Reverend W. Fields became the pastoral leadership for this flock. Under his spiritual direction, the first study course was held at the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church; it was sponsored by the Sunday Church School. In 1935, the church moved into a dynamic new phase in her life, legacy and history. The Reverend Jeremiah M. Baker became the eleventh pastor of this historic church and became the first pastor to serve more than forty years. During his administration, the mortgage for the old facility was liquidated and the new church facility was erected. The membership marched into the new church facility on Sunday, September 18, 1949; and

WHEREAS, in September 1979, a whole new dimension of pastoral leadership and brilliance emerged with the calling of the Reverend Sammie Earl Jones. Building on a foundation of stability and security left by the founding fathers, the Mount Zion Baptist Church moved into a new decade with a new, young and talent spiritual giant. Reverend Jones, a young and energetic minister, immediately caught the attention of the church membership. His personality and charm were like a magnet drawing the young and the old to the service of Christ, the church and the kingdom of God. Also, under his leadership, Mount Zion has completed construction of a new edifice in 1992, a new daycare building in 1995, two senior buildings (a 38-bed unit and a 36-bed unit completed in 2000 and 2003 respectively) and a Family Life Center comprised of a gymnasium and six new classrooms in 2005.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church on their 150th Anniversary and thank them for their innumerable contributions to the City of St. Louis in the community and 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 honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 12th day of June, 2009 by:

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward

Adopted this the 12th day of June, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

