

RESOLUTION NUMBER 62
Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church Centennial Celebration

WHEREAS, we have been apprised the Greater Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church is celebrating its 100th year anniversary on Sunday, June 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church was organized in January 1912, under the leadership of The Reverend C. Gosby; it was called the Olivette Baptist Church and was located at 2920 Market Street. After several name changes, the church moved from its location to 3222 Laclede Avenue, and then became known as Mount Carmel Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 1951, the Rev. Earl E. Nance, Sr., an associate minister of the Galilee Baptist Church and a public school teacher, was called as Pastor. With a congregation of 18 and a great deal of faith in God, Reverend Nance accepted the great challenge that he knew was before him; and

WHEREAS, the first thing Pastor Nance did was let the people know that the run down building was not a proper place of worship God. He felt that the house of worship should be just as nice, if not nicer, than any other place that welcomed the public and the children of God. Some told Reverend Nance that it would be impossible to build a new church at this time, but Pastor Nance said that nothing is impossible with faith and a lot of hard work. So, undaunted, Reverend Nance became the contractor and the members and friends of the church became the laborers, painters, and bricklayers. After a year and seven months, the dedication services were held from Sunday, October 26, 1952 to November 9, 1952. The final dedication message was delivered by the uncle of Pastor Nance, the Rev. John E. Nance, then the pastor of the Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church. It was during this service that the name of the church was changed to Greater Mount Carmel Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, to make way for urban redevelopment, the church was sold in 1956 for almost twice its original cost, and in less than five years. One can see from this single example, that they were blessed to have a minister of Reverend Nance's caliber to lead them. He not only was a great pulpitier, but a capable administrator as well; and

WHEREAS, for the next two years church services were held in the Baptist Educational Building at 1411 North Grand Boulevard, while their edifice at 1617 North Euclid was being erected. On the first Sunday in January 1960, they marched into their present church. The church's seating capacity was 750, and had a membership of 725 families. The church thanked God daily for sending such a leader in Pastor Nance, Sr. Early 1994 Pastor Nance, Sr. announced that he would no longer pastor the Great Mount Carmel Baptist Church. He named his son, Reverend Earl E. Nance, Jr. as his successor. Reverend Earl E. Nance, Jr. was installed as the Pastor of Greater Mount Carmel on Sunday, April 24, 1994. Reverend Earl E. Nance, Sr. served as Pastor Emeritus until his death on April 4, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Greater Mount Carmel, under the leadership of their current Pastor Reverend Earl E. Nance, Jr. has undergone major renovations. Today their edifice speaks of royalty, the place of worship for children of the King, with deep purple and white décor. To the Greater Mount Carmel Church Family, its value is priceless. They are still prayerful that God will continue to give Reverend Nance, Jr. his grace and wisdom to lead us to greater spiritual heights.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to join Mt Carmel in celebrating its 100 years of dedication and serving of the community and its loyal and loving membership to the City of St. Louis and pray that God provides continued leadership who will look back on this celebration of 2012 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 honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 8th day of June, 2012 by:

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Adopted this the 8th day of June, 2012 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen