

RESOLUTION NO. 118
Rev. Dr. Sammie Jones & Lady Sandra Jones
37th Pastoral Anniversary

WHEREAS, Pastor Sammie Earl Jones was born in Doddsville, Mississippi, on August 1, 1949, He is the eldest son of Ms. Bessie L. Jones and has one brother and one sister. He was baptized in the Olivet Missionary Baptist Church at the age of twelve after he accepted Christi as his personal Savior; he is married to Sandra Elaine Kelly and is the father of Reverend Shaun Ellison Jones (Lornetta); and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jones served his country in the United States Army from 1966 to 1969 and also in the active reserves from 1969-1976, achieving the rank of Specialist 5 (E-5); Pastor Jones answered the call to the Preaching Ministry in 1973 at the Olivet Baptist church; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jones received an Associate degree from Saint Louis University in 1976 and graduated from Lindenwood College in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications; he received his Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Western Baptist Bible College in July 1992; in his first pastoral appointment at Friendship Baptist Church, a small family congregation of about 30 members in Columbia, Missouri, he learned dedication; he and his wife, Sandra, a retired teacher for the Ferguson-Florissant School District, would commute twice a week from St. Louis to Columbia for prayer services; "It was kind of taxing," he said. "But after much prayer the Lord said, 'Come home'"; he has been home in St. Louis and preaching at Mount Zion ever since; and

WHEREAS, in August, 1979 Pastor Jones was called to the historical Mount Zion Baptist Church and is the 12th pastor to have served; the historic church began as a missionary Baptist church founded in 1859; Mount Zion follows First Baptist Church and Central Baptist as one of the oldest African-American congregations in St. Louis; Pastor Jones is presently serving as Senior Pastor; under his leadership, Mount Zion has completed construction of a new edifice, a new daycare building; two senior apartment buildings: a 38-bed unit and a 36-bed unit completed in 2000 and 2003, respectively; a Family Life Center comprised of a gymnasium and six new classrooms in 2005; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Jones serves as a local, state, and national denominational leader. He presently serves as 3rd Vice President of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. He is one of several commissioners with the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, is an executive member of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis and a life member of the St. Louis city chapter of the NAACP. He was inducted into the Distinguished Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in 1994. He is an executive member of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis; a life member of the St. Louis chapter of the NAACP; member of the St. Louis Ambassadors, Prince Hall Masonic East Gate #38; Chairman of the Fair St. Louis Minority; former President of the St. Louis Black Leadership Round Table and St. Louis Metropolitan Clergy Coalition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen for the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the Rev. Dr. Sammie Jones & Lady Sandra Jones on their 37th Pastoral Anniversary "Grateful For All God's Blessing" and their many contributions and selflessness and direct the Clerk of this Board to prepare a commemorative copy of this resolution to the end that it may be presented at a time and place deemed appropriate by the sponsor.

Introduced on the 18th day of September, 2016, by:

The Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Aldermen

The Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman, 4th Ward

Adopted the 18th day of September, 2016, as attested by:

Timothy O'Connell
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen