

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 313**  
**Rev. Elston K. McCowan**

*Whereas*, we pause in our deliberations to congratulate Rev. Elston K. McCowan on his 9<sup>th</sup> year as Pastor of Star Grace M.B.C. this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan was educated in St. Louis and graduated in 1981 from O'Fallon Technical High School with a Certificate of Higher Education in Data Processing; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan continued his education in the St. Louis area by attending St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, Columbia College-St. Louis Campus and St. Louis Christian College where he majored in Business Administration, Psychology and Christian Ministry, respectfully; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan answered his call to be a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ in April of 1996 and was ordained on January 26, 2003 under the leadership of the late Pastor Chalmes Gasper, Sr. of New Christian Hope M.B.C.; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan was installed as the Under Sheppard of Star Grace M.B.C. located at 5517 Lillian Avenue February 2003; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan lives out his calling along with the members of Star Grace M.B.C. by providing low income rental housing via the Bertha Westfall House at 1955 Belt Avenue, the Gilmore House at 5265 Gilmore Avenue and the soon to come Mrs. Rachael's House (named after his mother, Rachael Vails-McCowan) located at 4592 St. Ferdinand Avenue-all in the City of St. Louis; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan continues to live out his calling by "Defending the Weak from the Wicked", Giving a Voice to the Voiceless and Speaking Truth to Power" as he engages prosecutors, judges and public defenders for early release of prisoners and freedom from prison for the wrongfully accused; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan and his Star Grace M.B.C. family have provided food baskets, energy assistance, drug education, Certified Nurses Assistance (CNA) training, Certified Medical Technician (CMT) training and job readiness classes to the citizens of the Walnut Park Neighborhood in cooperation with Walbridge CEFSS; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan has fought for pay raises, better benefits and better working conditions for public employees as a Union Representative and Public Sector Director for American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Counsel 72 and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2000 respectfully; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan is the Vice Moderator of the Fellowship Outreach District and the Social Justice Chairman of the State Baptist Convention of MO/KS & NB of the National Baptist Convention of American, Inc. and Member of the St. Louis Area Pastor's Conference; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the St. Louis City NAACP, Min/Gen of the Universal African People Organization (UAPO), Assistant Editor of the African News World and the Co-Coordinator of the Gateway Green Alliance; and

*Whereas*, Rev. McCowan is the President of the Lilan Circle Neighborhood Development Corporation, Advisory Board Member of the Walbridge Community Education Full Service School and Garden Leader for the Pat Fedrick, Walbridge and the Davison Community Gardens in the Walnut Park Neighborhood in the 27<sup>th</sup> Ward in the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis, that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Rev. Elston K. McCowan and his many accomplishments and we further 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 honoree at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012 by:

**Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27<sup>th</sup> Ward**

Adopted this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2012 as attested by:

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David W. Sweeney  
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

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Lewis E. Reed  
President, Board of Aldermen