

RESOLUTION NUMBER 174
100th Anniversary of True Light MB Church

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that True Light MB Church will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the origin of the church was the vision of six Christians in 1909. The founders began by holding meetings. The first Mother of the church gave the name of True Light MB Church to the organization; and

WHEREAS, their first home was at 109 S. 10th Street. The church moved from there to a storefront on 14th and Poplar Street. There were men who pastored the congregation for short periods of time, however, the first permanent pastor was Riley C. Clopton who pastored from June 1915 until his death, March 26, 1962; and

WHEREAS, in 1919 the church body bought the property at 201 S. 16th Street and built the first church. In 1941 a church building was purchased at 1240 Glasgow which was still occupied by another congregation. True Light MB Church temporarily held services at 22nd and Franklin Street, upstairs over a fish market; and

WHEREAS, with high spirits and hard work from the members, the church was mortgage-free in approximately three years. In 1946, the members were moved to build a new church. The mortgage was signed for \$118,648.53. During construction in 1948, the congregation worshiped at Gamble Community Center. The new move occurred on September 18, 1949. Again through immense love, high spirits and hard work, the mortgage was burned on November 6, 1955, five years, eleven months and sixteen days after procuring the loan; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Clopton was a man with a vision, a message and a program. His Sunday night church service broadcast was well known and talked about throughout the community. He became known on the radio for the phrase, "Get your Bibles – dust them off"; and

WHEREAS, after Pastor Clopton's death, the church was pastored by Reverend Walter Lee Amos {August 1962-October 1964}, Reverend Willie W. Wright {October 1964-December 1966}, Reverend E. Stanley Howlett {1967-2002}, and Reverend Corey A. Thompson {November 2002-May 2005}; and

WHEREAS, the current pastor is Reverend Jerry Hodges, originally of St. Louis, but who pastored a church in Joplin, Missouri for eight years. Pastor Hodges is a dynamic preacher, teacher, soloist and musician. He serves to keep the spirit of God ever present in the church.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize True Light MB Church on their 100th 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 23rd day of October, 2009 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 23rd day of October, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen