

**Resolution Number 231**  
**Northern Missionary Baptist Church**

**WHEREAS**, Northern Missionary Baptist Church (NMBC) started from a neighborhood Sunday School. In 1909, Sister Sarah Marlow, a member of Pleasant Green Baptist Church began a Sunday School in her home on Ewing Avenue for children who were not in attendance at any church. She used old Sunday School literature supplied by her pastor, Rev. John K. Parker. Rev. Parker also gave her books, pictures, cards, and small testaments for the children. The Sunday School became so interesting that the adults started coming. When the crowd grew too large for her home, she asked permission to use an old store on Bernard Street. After Sunday School, she would have prayer meeting. The people seemed so happy about prayer service, she told Rev. Parker. He replied, "Sarah, a church in that community is necessary! You have my support"; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 1910, Northern Missionary Baptist Church was officially organized by Rev. A. Boggs. Rev. Boggs was a missionary of the Antioch District Association and given the name "Northern Baptist". Rev. Sam Terry was the first pastor. After six months on Bernard Street, the church moved to 600 South Ewing at Scott Avenue in a store front. The members would bring lamps filled with oil so they would have light. Rev. Terry left in 1911; and

**WHEREAS**, the church elected Rev. Nichols, who served eighteen months. In 1913, Rev. Shields was elected pastor. He served from 1913-1916 and resigned. The church kept struggling and elected Rev. Martin, who served from 1916-1929. Under his leadership the church moved to 514 S. Ewing Avenue. The church remained there for forty years. Rev. Martin failed in health and resigned. The church elected Rev. Cooper. He served from 1929-1933; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1933 Rev. William Munger was elected. He was an able minister. Under the leadership of Rev. Munger, the mortgage was paid off on the building at 514 South Ewing Avenue. He spent many hours of physical labor in the church building. Not only working in the church, he worked with people in the community. He gained love and respect of all the people in the community. The church continued to grow. Many souls came into the church under his administration. He served from 1933-1942. When his health failed, he decided to go away for a rest. On February 15, (a Sunday morning) he asked Rev. Felix Shepard to serve in his place while he was gone. He passed on February 22, 1942 while he was away. This brought sadness to the congregation; and

**WHEREAS**, after a year of prayer and supplication to our Lord, Rev. Harold J. Butler was elected as pastor on March 7, 1993. Upon the pulpit committee's interview of Rev. Butler on October 17, 1992, most impressive was his ability to set goals for spiritual growth. Christian education, soul winning, and financial support of the church. He stressed the importance of leadership, not just winning and financial support of the church. He stressed the importance of leadership, not just as a change to "be in charge" but as one accountable for maintaining Christ's standard in himself as well as his congregation. To lead one must be willing to prepare. One must have enough commitment to God to plan; Rev. Butler has shown to be one who has accepted his calling.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize the many contributions of Northern Missionary Baptist Church and wish them many years of continued service 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 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010 by:

**Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward**

Adopted this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010 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