

RESOLUTION NUMBER 258

The New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir

WHEREAS, on Friday September 23, 1977, the Reverend Donald Hunter was called to Pastor the New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church (NSM). This dynamic spiritual leader was indeed the answer to many prayers; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hunter brought with him Brother Ronald Metcalf, as Minister of Music, who formed the *New Sunny Mount Chancel Choir*, which transformed the quality of music at New Sunny Mount; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hunter also declared New Sunny Mount as the “*Church in the Sun of Righteousness for Missions to the World.*” As such, the gospel music produced by the Chancel Choir was so spiritually inspiring and worshipful, that Rev. Hunter wanted to share the choir with the entire world. Thus, he encouraged Brother Metcalf and the Chancel Choir to record an album, and in 1979 they did just that; and

WHEREAS, a few years thereafter, Brother Metcalf was called to New York, New York for a dream-fulfilling experience on Broadway. To fill his enormous void and responsibility, Rev. Hunter summoned other extraordinary music leaders, which included: Leo Davis, Gregory Gettis, Deborah Shipp, and for a short time, Dello Thedford; each directing the Chancel Choir to new heights in the Gospel and in the worship experience at New Sunny Mount; and

WHEREAS, the New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir, now under the direction of the incomparable excellence of Minister of Music Anita Watkins-Stevens, has moved to even greater heights and accomplishments. The Chancel Choir won First Place in the Verizon Wireless St. Louis Region “How Sweet the Sound” Gospel Choir Competition, on Saturday September 13, 2008 at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis. As the first place winner, the choir received \$10,000 for New Sunny Mount, and the title of “The Best Church Choir in the of St. Louis, Missouri Region”; and

WHEREAS, as regional winners, the New Sunny Mount Chancel Choir was invited to compete nationally in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 8, 2008. What a wonderful experience for the Chancel Choir, New Sunny Mount, and the many friends and family members who viewed the national competition by satellite or accompanied the choir to Atlanta! The Chancel Choir represented New Sunny Mount and the St. Louis Region well. Although New Sunny Mount did not win the national competition, the Chancel Choir is forever a winner in our hearts. We are so very proud of the New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir and Anita Watkins-Stevens, Minister of Music; and

WHEREAS, with Reverend Donald Hunter, Pastor and great visionary of faith, at the helm, New Sunny Mount has proven that with a “working faith” you can accomplish great things, produce immeasurable joy, and with God all things are possible.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause to honor the New Sunny Mount Missionary Baptist Church Chancel Choir for their 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 prepare a copy for presentation to the honoree, at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 12th day of December, 2008 by:

Honorable Bennice Jones King, Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 12th day of December, 2008 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen