

Resolution Number 389
90th Anniversary of Southampton Presbyterian Church

Whereas, the Southampton story begins at Tyler Place Presbyterian Church, early in 1913. A visionary elder, Dr. R.R. Vaughn, was certain a church was needed in the new Southampton subdivision. Dr. Vaughn had visited the area and had been told they needed a day school, not a Sunday school. A Presbytery survey showed not a single Presbyterian family in the community. On July 13, 1914, a blistering hot Sunday, Dr. John Roemer, Tyler Place's pastor, with Vaughn and others, started a Sunday School in a room over a plumber's shop at Devonshire and Macklind. Forty-six people were present. The next Sunday there were eighty-five; and

Whereas, In 1915, the plumber's shop burned down. The Sunday School moved to a much larger space over a drug store, later Finishing Products Corp. Worship was started by the Rev. J.H. Gauss. The next year, with help from Tyler Place, the northeast corner of Nottingham and Macklind was purchased, and a red-brick chapel built toward the rear of the property. The Rev. Albert Keller came as missionary pastor. In 1918, the Rev. Williamson Vater was called. It was then that Southampton Church was organized and came into being on Good Friday, April 18, 1919; and

Whereas, When Rev. Vater left in 1920, the Rev. William Murdoch, home on furlough from mission fields in India, remained to supply the pulpit and served for 30 years. When it was built, the chapel had seemed more than adequate. But growth was so rapid that soon a large tent was pitched on the front lawn to house some of the Sunday School classes; and

Whereas, in 1924, ground was broken for the first basement unit of a new church building. It was an extension from the chapel south along Macklind, built at a cost of \$36,000. In two years, the membership had doubled. By 1929, a building fund was again started, to complete the projected church. The ensuing market crash and depression postponed plans. Finally, in November 1940, the congregation moved to Buder School for services. On June 8, 1941, the cornerstone of the present Southampton Presbyterian Church was laid. The stone arch and entrance doors of the basement church became the main entrance to the new sanctuary and dedication took place on the last day of May 1942; and

Whereas, Under these pastoral leaders, the church developed deep roots and reached out into the community. The 1980's brought a national change. The northern and southern assemblies became the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., healing a breach dating to the Civil War. The two local bodies, in a service of reunion, came together as the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. In 1988, St. Louis was host to the two-hundredth General Assembly; and

Whereas, they now worship in smaller quarters. We painted unused rooms, bought new carpeting and thirty chairs. Their first service in the new Chapel was held on February 10, 2008. Southampton Presbyterian Church remains a Church of Christ's Compassion.

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 90th Anniversary of Southampton Presbyterian Church 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 honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 16th day of April, 2009 by:

Honorable Stephen M. Gregali, Alderman 14th Ward
Honorable Donna Baringer, Alderwoman 16th Ward

Adopted this the 16th day of April, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen