

RESOLUTION NUMBER 133
The 100th Anniversary of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church

WHEREAS, the congregation of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church has a century old history, where there lies sacrifices and accomplishments of a great many warriors. Their journey started as the First Baptist Church of Benton in Benton, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of Pastors are many, starting with their first Pastor being unknown. During the period of 1909-1932, Reverend Bennett and Reverend Oliver were in office. The exact length of their individual service is unknown. As the congregation grew, they were compelled to find a larger building, which led them to 2136 O'Fallon Street in St. Louis, Missouri, with Reverend H.H. Davis as Pastor for a short time; subsequently Reverend P.J. Suggs was called; and

WHEREAS, in 1933, First Baptist Church moved to 1313 N. Jefferson Avenue under the leadership of Reverend L.C. Turner. At that time, the church name was changed to "Emmanuel" meaning "God with Us." Under his leadership, a great work was done; and

WHEREAS, in 1934, Reverend H.H. Davis returned as Pastor again and served until 1936 when he resigned and relocated. EMBC went into prayer. Their prayers were answered in 1937 when Ervin Little was called as Pastor. That same year, EMBC moved to 2433 Dickson Avenue, where Reverend Little served until his health began to fail and resigned in November 1956; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 1956, Reverend David Brooks became their Pastor and under his leadership, the congregation began to grow. However, on October 20, 1957, the Lord called him home. Later, one of their own, Reverend L.V. Washington was called as Pastor. In 1958, the church moved from 2735 Thomas Street to 1385 Goodfellow Boulevard, where they were blessed with a number of auxiliaries, such as Junior Choir, Celestial Choir and Usher Board; and

WHEREAS once again, one of their own, Reverend David Dorsey was elected as Pastor on March 5, 1973. Under his direction, they were blessed to burn the mortgage, complete construction of the annex, finish the kitchen, get new musical instruments, form the Health Unit, male chorus, kitchen committee and many other offices were formed. But most of all, he added leaders to the congregation and Sister Irene Menz became the church historian; and

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2002, God prevailed and assigned Reverend Duane E. Belford as their Pastor, with the divine task of a more spiritual and energetic ministry, where the young, as well as, the old would come together in service to Christ; and

WHEREAS, since the organization of EMBC, they have become proud of their edifice. Though they have had many trials and tribulations, they have come this far by faith.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize of Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church on their 100th Anniversary 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 honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 17th day of September, 2009 by:

Honorable Jeffrey L. Boyd, Alderman 22nd Ward

Adopted this the 17th day of September, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

