

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 185**  
**Leonard Missionary Baptist Church**

**WHEREAS**, the history of Leonard Missionary Baptist Church spans beyond the celebrated 145 years. There is documentation stating Rev. William M. S. Cutheon, Pastor and David Bush, Clerk, organized the original church in 1852; and

**WHEREAS**, the annually recorded history states that Leonard's inception was in 1861 when the foundation was laid by a few consecrated and determined Christians to meet the spiritual needs of a lost community. At this time, the church was operating under the name of St. Mark's Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. DeBrill; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church has a Legacy of Pastors. At this time their exact dates of service to LMBC aren't really available; however, they are honored in their own rights. The Past Shepherds, (excluding those aforementioned) were Rev. G.A. Friley; Rev. G. P. Hopewell; Rev. W. J. Davis; Rev. D. W. Titus and Rev. S. E. Tanner. Past Assistant Pastors were Rev. P. Temple; Rev. D. W. Edwards; Rev. J. Mixon; Rev. C. T. O'Kelly; Rev. B. Harris and Rev. L. A. Kirby. In 1916, under the leadership of Rev. P. W. Dunavant, D.D., the property at 104 S. Leonard Avenue was purchased, and later the name was changed to Leonard Avenue Baptist Church. In 1923, the corner stone was laid. Rev. Dunavant began ardent work, which resulted in the burning of the mortgage on the old church. A lot was purchased and the construction on the first new brick church was started; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1936, the Union Missionary Baptist Church consolidated with Leonard Avenue Baptist Church and the name became Leonard Avenue Consolidated Missionary Baptist Church. In 1938, under the guidance of Assistant Pastor, Rev. W. J. Davis, the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis purchased the Leonard Avenue Consolidated Missionary Baptist Church. In 1939, under the leadership of three Assistant Pastors, Rev. Lee Kirby, Rev. J. Mixon and Rev. C. T. O'Kelly, who found the location. Leonard moved to 3105 Cass Avenue. The church paid cash for the property and the house next door; and

**WHEREAS**, this name remained until 1943 when Rev. W. E. W. Brown became Pastor of Leonard. Under his leadership, the words "Avenue" and "Consolidated" were deleted and the name became Leonard Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Brown pastured Leonard for twenty-eight years, from 1943-1971. He began to make in-depth plans for the church from the beginning of his pastoral. Leonard moved from the Cass Avenue location to 1220 North Grand Boulevard on the third Sunday in December, 1945. After the completion of this move, many improvements were made. One major improvement was the front of the church as perma-stoned; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 18, 1996, during an 8:00 a.m. High Praise Service, tragedy struck in the form of fire and totally destroyed the historical edifice known as "Leonard Baptist". Due to the quick thinking and clear instructions of Rev. Carl Cunningham, the congregation was evacuated safely, without the loss of life or serious injury. In the words of Pastor Thompson, "The Building Burned, but the Church Still Stands; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 12, 1997 the church purchased eight (8) acres of land for the sole purpose of building a new community based LMBC, located at 1100 North Compton Avenue. On Saturday, September 6, 1997 the "Official Groundbreaking Services" were celebrated. Many technicalities delayed the progress of building the "new church;" however, God's plan prevailed. On Sunday, May 30, 1999 the Leonard M. B. Church family, led by their Pastor and Wife marched from the original site (1220 N. Grand) to their new edifice at its present location.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Leonard Missionary Baptist Church and we wish them continued success, triumph and accomplishment 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 October, 2008 by:

**Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward**

Adopted this the 17th day of October, 2008 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

