

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 150 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WHEREAS, in 1867 former slaves who worshipped at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, along with approximately thirty other individuals, joined together to establish Saint James Presbyterian Church and began meeting in a rented house on Forbis Street;

WHEREAS, in 1869 Reverend James Crestfield became the first full-time pastor who embraced the value of education, civil rights, and social justice that permeates throughout the church's history;

WHEREAS, in the 1900s, the congregation purchased a house which the pastor and lay leaders utilized as a school for African-American children and adults, creating the first formal education for African-Americans in the City of Greensboro;

WHEREAS, the installed pastoral leadership of Saint James throughout the past 150 years includes Reverend James Crestfield, the first pastor, followed by Reverend H. A. Gibson, Reverend Tate, Reverend J.J. Wilson, Reverend J.G. Walter, Reverend Byrd R. Smith, Reverend Doctor Hector Miller, Sr., Reverend Julius T. Douglas, Reverend Lloyd Green, Jr., Reverend Doctor J. Herbert Nelson II, Reverend James Belle and current pastor, Reverend Doctor Diane Givens Moffett, the first woman to serve as pastor at Saint James Presbyterian Church;

WHEREAS, recent Saint James Presbyterian Church ministries include an expansion of the facilities to further accommodate the community, the establishment of the Touching Lives Foundation to promote education, financial literacy and health, and A Message and a Meal where volunteers from the church and community serve a weekly hot meal to the homeless population while a Cone Health network team presents a message on health and provides access to health care for those in need;

WHEREAS, Saint James Presbyterian Church engages in other ministries for women, men, senior adults, youth, young adults and children, promotes education, civil rights, and social justice for persons in the community;

WHEREAS, Saint James Presbyterian Church members have led by example and have contributed to the Greensboro community for 150 years serving as early business entrepreneurs, firefighters, policemen, postal workers, educators, medical doctors, dentists, nurses, elected officials, and freedom fighters;

WHEREAS, Saint James Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina is celebrating its 150th Anniversary beginning January 1, 2017 and looks forward to serving the church and the greater Greensboro community, working towards a more loving, just and peaceful world in the years to come;

WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens of Greensboro the Greensboro City Council wishes to extend congratulations and wishes to the Pastor and members of Saint James Presbyterian

Church congregation who have worked, and continue to work for positive change and growth for the citizens of Greensboro.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENSBORO:

That it hereby recognizes Sunday, January 15, 2017 as the Saint James Presbyterian Church Day in Greensboro, North Carolina and the beginning of the 150th Anniversary year-long celebration for the congregation and community.