

RESOLUTION NO. 13-376

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that on May 30-June 2, 2013, the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ (Draper Memorial) will celebrate their 50th Church Anniversary; and,

WHEREAS, during the church's Sunday afternoon service to be held on June 2, 2013, Bishop Oscar Lewis Meadows, the Presiding Bishop of the Alabama First Jurisdiction of Churches of God in Christ, will serve as the guest speaker; and,

WHEREAS, in 1963, Bishop C. A. Ashworth appointed Elder Dave Draper, Sr., pastor of the New Market Church of God in Christ. At that time, there were three mothers: Mother Minnie Humphrey, Mother Lena Holden, and Mother Geneva Hereford, along with several other members, which included: Bessie Turner, Jannie Mae Holden, Corine Holden, and Alma Holden; and,

WHEREAS, the Lord blessed, and the congregation grew rapidly. Therefore, the building had to be enlarged and remodeled. While most members were happy with the small church in New Market, the desire to relocate grew. Since the majority of members were living in the Huntsville area, a lengthy search for a church in the Huntsville area was unsuccessful until April 16, 1980. God spoke to the Pastor's wife and said, "YOU CAN GET THE BEIRNE AVENUE HOLINESS CHURCH," which was named the Huntsville Holiness Church. She told Elder Draper, Sr., but did not reveal this to anyone else at this time. A few days later, by divine providence, the pastor and his wife met some of the members of the Beirne Avenue Holiness Church who told them their congregation was considering selling in order to build a new and larger church facility. This confirmation of the possible availability of the building confirmed the vision that God had given Missionary Willie Draper. Through much prayer, fasting, and hard work, the vision became a reality. With continuous guidance from God, the pastor and members of the New Market Church of God in Christ purchased the Beirne Avenue Holiness Church building; and,

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1980, members and friends gathered for a glorious entrance service. Two soul stirring messages were delivered: the pastor Elder Dave Draper, Sr., delivered the morning message followed by an afternoon message by Elder L. L. Roberts (former State President of Evangelism). On December 7, 1980, the church was dedicated by Elder O. L. Meadows (now Presiding Bishop Alabama Jurisdiction I). The new structure was completed in 1994 and will seat approximately 600 people, with nursery, baptismal pool, lounge, classrooms, and office space; and,

WHEREAS, on April 27, 1998, Elder Dave Draper, Sr., went home to be with the Lord. Bishop O. L. Meadows, Jurisdictional Prelate, Church of God in Christ, Alabama 1st Jurisdiction, appointed Elder Dave Draper, Jr. as pastor. Shortly thereafter, on June 1, 1998, the trustees and members met to change the name of the church to the

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Draper Memorial Church Of God In Christ in memory of their former pastor, Superintendent Dave Draper, Sr. Under the leadership of Pastor Dave Draper, Jr., the membership has grown and the mortgage has been burned (2007). Also the formation of new ministries (aspiring ministries classes, new members class, a campus ministry, Women's Department, and a Mothers' Board); and,

WHEREAS, the church is partnering with other ministries in community outreach: "Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, and Partnership for a Drug Free Community in community outreach. They have purchased surrounding properties to expand their outreach ministry. In 2004, they completed their first Habitat For Humanity Home in Huntsville, Alabama, co-sponsored with Faith Presbyterian Church. In the future, the church plans to build a family life center—catch the vision, and it shall come to pass.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, gratefully acknowledge and recognize the Draper Memorial Church of God in Christ and Draper Family for having served as a pillar in our community and congratulate them as they celebrate their 50th Church Anniversary. We extend best wishes in all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 23rd day of May, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 23rd day of May, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama