

RESOLUTION NO. 15-307

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that a distinguished citizen, Reverend McKinley Jones, departed this life on April 24, 2015, at the age of 91. Funeral services will be held on May 1, 2015 at the First Missionary Baptist Church with his son, Reverend Michael Jones, officiating; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend McKinley Jones became Pastor of Blackburn Chapel in January 1960. At the time Reverend Jones took over as pastor, the church was located on a parcel of land in an open field East of old 72 Highway. It has been said that during that time, Reverend Jones put Blackburn Chapel on the map by building up the congregation from 18 members to 70; and,

WHEREAS, during the mid-1960s, The Elder's and Deacon's Boards were re-established by Pastor Jones. In 1967, Reverend Jones had a vision for continuing to move forward with faith by relocating Blackburn Chapel. The lot was sold and new land was purchased in an attractive wooded area in Northwest Huntsville on Plummer Road. In February 1968, The Blackburn Chapel Mother's Board was organized and in March 1968 the Blackburn Chapel No. 2 Usher Board was established under the leadership of Pastor Jones to assist the other usher board of the church; and,

WHEREAS, in November 1972, the Blackburn Chapel Chorus Choir was organized by Pastor Jones and Elder George T. Barnes. In April 1976, Blackburn Chapel No. 3 Usher Board was established by Pastor Jones and Sister Dora Sharp, the idea was to involve the young adults and to assist the other two usher boards in the church; and,

WHEREAS, in 1984, the vision continued, membership tripled and Blackburn Chapel became one of the largest Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in the denomination. To accommodate this growth additional space was needed. In May of 1986, Blackburn Chapel Christian Education Committee was established by Pastor Jones and Brother John Jude and later reorganized in the mid-1990s. Blackburn Chapel Beautification Committee was organized in October 1986 by Pastor Jones and Mother Melissa Jones. The Blackburn Chapel Brotherhood was established in April 1986 and later renamed in the mid-1990s to become the Christian Men United (CMU); and,

WHEREAS, God has truly blessed Blackburn Chapel under the leadership of Pastor McKinley Jones; Membership grew to over 500 and several members were called into the ministry; Reverend Endia Scruggs, Reverend Dr. Theodis Acklin, Reverend Clifford Malone, Reverend Stephanie Tanner, Reverend David Lockhart, Reverend John Jude, Reverend Michael Jones, Reverend Lamont Pope, Reverend Brian Winston, Reverend Carl Lane, Reverend Bertha Watts, Reverend Virginia Washington, Reverend Remisia Snodgrass, Reverend Tramaine Snodgrass,

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Reverend Evelyn Wallace, Brother Kelvin Graham, Brother Dwayne White, and Brother Tony Yarbrough, Jr.; and,

WHEREAS, Pastor Jones is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mother Melissa Moore Jones; three sons, Lawrence Jones, Reverend Michael Jones, and Berry Jones; three daughters, Mary Campbell, Taraysa Jones and Renna Jones; three sisters, Letha Lee, Ada Phipps, and Lucille Mixon; one brother, David Jones; nine grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express to his wife, family, relatives and friends their deepest sympathy in the loss of Reverend McKinley Jones. The world has lost a noble character who left behind a beautiful life among us for a time to blossom and bless us with its kindness and humbleness, like the fragrance of a rose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that even as we mourn the passing of Reverend McKinley Jones, we are resigned to the all-wise heavenly Father's will.

ADOPTED this the 14th day of May, 2015.

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

APPROVED this the 14th day of May, 2015.

Mayor of the City of
Huntsville, Alabama