

Resolution



ORDER NO: 2019-0609

DATE: June 18, 2019

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF DALLAS §

BE IT REMEMBERED, at a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Dallas County, Texas, held on the 18th day of June, 2019 on a motion made by Dr. Theresa M. Daniel, Commissioner of District #1, and seconded by John Wiley Price, Commissioner of District #3, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, On Sunday, June 19, 1864 a few black missionaries met under a large elm tree in the White Rock Settlement of Dallas County. The law at the time prohibited slaves from congregating without the presence of a white man. So they were joined by Rev. Robert Fabius Butler, a white minister from Richardson. At that meeting, the Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church was born and dedicated to God. The church's name comes from Deuteronomy 34:1 "And Moses went up from the Plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is over against Jericho". The first deacons were John Huffman, Dan Howard, Sam Fowler, William Phifer, Tobe Howard and Jack Saunders. These men of vision blazed a trail for hundreds of Pisgahites to travel.

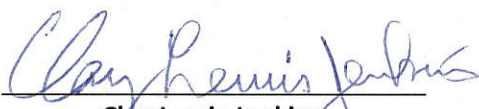
WHEREAS, In 1886 the church made its second major dedication to serve God. By the year 1888 the first trustees were Sebanon Clark, Tobe Howard, William Phifer and Jack Sanders, who negotiated and purchased the first site at 14000 Preston Road on February 21, 1889, from William and Elvira Wilkerson. Sometime shortly after that, the church was built. It was said to have been long and narrow like a shotgun house. The water was drawn from a well (which remains on the property) and the church heated its members with a potbelly stove.

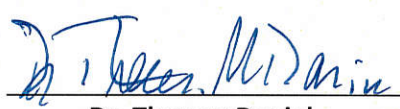
WHEREAS, Mount Pisgah came to be affectionately called "The Rock". Years passed, circumstances arose, and the community changed; but the Rock always stood. By 1943 the members were ready for a third major dedication, a new church structure. But it was not until 1945, with rocks from Jacksboro, that a few carpenters and men of the church were able to complete a new monument located at Preston Road.

WHEREAS, Several pastors have led the congregation over the years – Reverends Butler, Wyems, Shaw, Pitman, Stewart, Drake, Harns, Ballenger, Hayden, Watson, Moore, McGlover, Cecil Smith, Sr., and presently Rev. Robert Townsend, Senior Pastor. Only a few of the many individuals and families that have been etched in the church history have been mentioned. There have been many more who have not been forgotten.

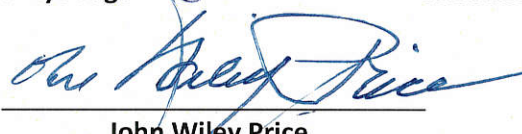
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dallas County Commissioner Court recognizes that, established in 1864, Mount Pisgah is the oldest African American Baptist church in Dallas County and the third oldest African American Baptist church in the state. Mount Pisgah has contributed significantly to the development, growth, and history of the community and our county.


DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 18th day of June, 2019.


Clay Lewis Jenkins
County Judge


Dr. Theresa Daniel
Commissioner, District 1


J.J. Koch
Commissioner, District 2


John Wiley Price
Commissioner, District 3


Dr. Elba Garcia
Commissioner, District 4