

January 24, 2001

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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**00-1220-RS10      Resolution Re: The Reverend Clay Evans**

**Presented at the Board Meeting of December 20, 2000, and deferred.**

December 20, 2000

00-1220-RS10

**RESOLUTION: RE:  
THE REVEREND CLAY EVANS**

**WHEREAS**, in 1950, The Reverend Clay Evans founded and began serving as pastor of the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church located at 45<sup>th</sup> Place and Princeton Avenue in Chicago, Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, for fifty years, he has served with honor and distinction as pastor at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church; and

**WHEREAS**, he has extended his hands of fellowship not only to those who attend his church, but also to those who listen over the radio and who watch him on television, and he was instrumental in founding and serving as president of the Broadcast Ministers Alliance of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS**, The Reverend Clay Evans—believing that through Christ all things are possible—overcame a speech impediment that kept him from talking until he was 5 years old and has become a world-renowned, award-winning gospel singer and recording artist, having made more than 25 recordings on national labels and having given concerts all over the world; and

**WHEREAS**, he has received a 1996 Stellar Award for having the best selling gospel album—“I’ve Got A Testimony”—in the United States, and he published an autobiographical record of his life—From Plough Handle to Pulpit: A Man with a Vision, which espoused his belief that “It is No Secret What God Can Do!”; and

**WHEREAS**, he has been responsible for helping launch the ministerial careers of more than one hundred ministers, both men and women; and

**WHEREAS**, The Reverend Clay Evans has been a fearless advocate for the civil rights of all people; and

**WHEREAS**, seeking to combat the evils of racism, sexism, poverty, domestic instability, and political unrest, he founded African-American Religious Connection, AARC, an international interfaith, interdenominational network made up of persons from all disciplines of the religious community; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1954, he was one of the first ministers of his denomination to ordain a woman preacher, the late Reverend Consuella York; and

**WHEREAS**, he demonstrated and marched with the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and he is a founding member and a former National Chairman of Operation PUSH; and

**WHEREAS**, believing that young people must be encouraged and shown the way by both words and deeds, he has served as a mentor to students at Hendricks Community Academy; has marched against drugs, gangs, and violence; served on the Chicago Public Schools Character Education committee; was instrumental in the development of the Interfaith Community Partnership initiative with the Chicago Public Schools; and has always been a strong advocate for children obtaining a solid educational background; and

**WHEREAS**, at 75 years of age, he has decided to retire as the pastor of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the President and Members of the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, gathered here this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2000, congratulate The Reverend Clay Evans for all of his efforts on behalf of the children of Chicago, wishing him well as he begins his retirement and as he takes his ministry into a new direction.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a suitable copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Reverend Clay Evans and to the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church for containment in the church archives.