

**RESOLUTION COMMERORATING PASTOR VAN W. WELLS' 50TH  
PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY AT G.B. PICKENS MEMORIAL TEMPLE COGIC**

**WHEREAS**, Under the divine appointment of God and the tutelage of his late uncle, Pastor Van W. Wells has blessed Pickens Memorial Temple COGIC with 50 years of service; and

**WHEREAS**, The Chicago City Council has been informed of this milestone by the Honorable Stephanie D. Coleman, Alderman of the 16th Ward; and

**WHEREAS**, Born and raised in Mississippi, Pastor Van W. Wells was raised under his mother's guidance and strict holiness traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 1950s, the Pastor migrated to Chicago where his late uncle Bishop G.B. Pickens was the Pastor at what was then called St. Paul Mission COGIC; and

**WHEREAS**, When his uncle Bishop Pickens died in March of 1975, Pastor Wells followed in his footsteps becoming the senior pastor and renaming the church G.B. Pickens Memorial Temple COGIC in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1985, Pastor Wells became Superintendent of the UE Miller district under the late Prelate Bishop Louis Henry Ford; in 1990, after much prayer and dedication to the Lord, Pickens Temple opened the doors to its new \$1,500,000 building with a membership that had grown from five adults and 15 children to 300 members; always showing respect for those who came before him Pastor Wells then changed the name of the district to the U.E. Miller/St. LT Buchanan District in honor of Superintendent L.T. Buchanan whom he succeeded; and

**WHEREAS**, Showing tireless dedication to the ministry, Pastor Wells was promoted to Administrative Assistant under Bishop Louis Henry Ford in 1992, and later was honored with the position of First Administrative Assistant under Bishop Ocie Booker; he received his honorary Doctorate from the William Roberts School of Ministry in 2019, is now officially known as one of the Fathers of First Jurisdiction, and is a father of many sons in the gospel who promotes the Spirit of Moses to this generation; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, Pastor Wells has ministered the gospel through several avenues, including on the radio stations WBEE and Gospel Radio 1570 AM from 1979 to 2005 as well as the "Good News Hour," a television broadcast on Chicago's WJYS, which was a staple in the Chicagoland area; and

**WHEREAS**, A result of Pastor Wells's sincere belief in holistic ministry, Pickens Temple offers a food pantry, drug, and alcohol ministry, and youth community service events; and

**WHEREAS**, Pastor Wells has preached and pastored for over 50 years, with four generations of parishioners having been blessed under his leadership; in addition to his service in Chicago, Pastor Wells has been a sought-after evangelist for many years, both in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and beyond, travelling throughout the United States spreading the gospel of Christ; now, therefore

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Chicago, gathered here this nineteenth day of April 2023, do hereby congratulate Pastor Van W. Wells on the occasion of his 50th Pastoral Anniversary, and extend our most heartfelt wishes for his continued happiness, and success; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared and presented to Pastor Van W. Wells as a sign of our honor and respect.

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STEPHANIE D. COLEMAN  
Alderman, Ward 16