

**MOTION**

On February 7, 1906, the Late Bishop William Lugene Smith was born in Montgomery, Alabama. In February 1922, he was baptized. While a young man, serving as an Assistant Pastor, he had a vision that he would one day pastor a little white church.

Bishop Smith's job as a railroad porter often brought him to Los Angeles. One day, while driving down Hooper Avenue in Los Angeles, he saw the little white church that he had seen years before in a dream. On April 13, 1942, Bishop Douglas officially installed him as Pastor of Bethlehem Assembly Church. In 1944, the church was incorporated and renamed Bethlehem Temple, Incorporated, which is located at 958 E. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street in Los Angeles.

Bishop Smith served for fifty-four years as Pastor of Bethlehem Temple Church. He trained future pastors. Bishop Smith traveled extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. He wrote a number of songs, poems and a book.

On April 21, 1996, Bishop Smith retired from the pastorate and became Pastor Emeritus. Upon his retirement, Dr. Gentry Richardson, Sr., became Pastor of Bethlehem Temple Church.

Under Dr. Gentry Richardson Sr., through his devotion and leadership helped the church grow and establish Bethlehem Temple Church as a fixture in the community.

The naming of the intersection of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and Wadsworth Avenue as "Bishop Dr. Gentry Richardson Bethlehem Temple Church Square" would be in recognition of his dedication to the City of Los Angeles.

Furthermore to honor the rich history of Bishop Smith legacy should be recognized in conjunction with the square dedication to memorialize Bishop William Lugene Smith as the founder of Bethlehem Temple.

I THEREFORE MOVE that ceremonial sign(s) should be erected at the intersection of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and Wadsworth Avenue to include the following language "Dr. Gentry Richardson, Sr., Square" for his dedication to the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that a sign be erected below the square dedication at the intersection of 52<sup>nd</sup> and Wadsworth to include the following language "Bishop William Lugene Smith, Founder Bethlehem Baptist Church".

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Transportation be directed to fabricate and install permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at or suitably near this location.



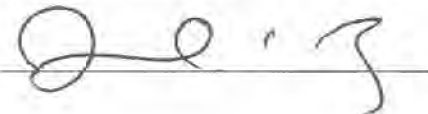
MAY 17 2016

PRESENTED BY:

CURREN D. PRICE, JR.

Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL