

# MOTION

Archbishop Carl Bean is the founder and the first Archbishop of the Unity Fellowship of Christ Church, and helped start the Liberation Theology Movement, which seeks to promote progressive Christian values and reject judgement or discrimination based on gender and sexual orientations.

Bean grew up in Baltimore as a devout Christian active in his church's music ministry. But when he discovered that he was attracted to members of the same sex, he felt isolated. There was no one to soothe the sting of rejection by family and church members. Thoroughly devastated, Bean attempted suicide when he was twelve. He credits God for bringing through this difficult time, preparing him to help others who are rejected and stigmatized, others who would suffer pain, loneliness, and confusion upon being told that there was no place in the church for them.

Bean became an openly gay ordained minister in 1982 and went on to found the Unity Fellowship of Christ Church here in Los Angeles. The church started a movement which embraces Liberation Theology, which fights for social justice, teaches that all people have the right to question, to study, and interpret the Bible free from oppression, and teaches that God is greater than any religion, denomination, or school of thought.

In 1992, Bean was consecrated as the first Presiding Bishop of the Unity Fellowship Church Movement, and became the first Archbishop of the Movement in 1999. Under Bean's leadership, the church's Minority AIDS Project became the first non-profit, community service agency founded and managed by people of color to educate and serve communities of color who continue to be disproportionately infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Bean's leadership and service to marginalized communities has been recognized and honored by countless religious and civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Hip-Hop Community, the Justice Ministries Presbyterian Church, Evangelicals Together, the National Minority AIDS Council and the National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

In recognition of his contributions to the City and his trail blazing efforts within the Christian community, it is appropriate that the City name the intersection of Sycamore Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard as "Archbishop Carl Bean Square."

I THEREFORE MOVE that the intersection at Sycamore Avenue and Jefferson Boulevard be named as "Archbishop Carl Bean Square" and that the Department of Transportation be directed to erect permanent ceremonial sign(s) to this effect at this location.

PRESENTED BY:   
HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
Councilmember, 10<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

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