

Memorandum



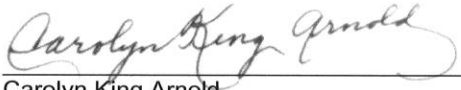
DATE February 24, 2021

TO TC Broadnax, City Manager

SUBJECT Street Name Change for Village Fair Place to Pastor Pryor Drive

In accordance with the provisions of Section 51A-9.302 of the Dallas Development Code, please proceed with the process for the consideration of a street name change for Village Fair Place between Ledbetter Drive and Village Fair Drive to Pastor Pryor Drive.

For additional information on Pastor George W. Pryor's legacy, please find the attached Exhibit A.



Carolyn King Arnold
Council Member, District 4



Tennell Atkins
Council Member, District 8



Chad West
Council Member, 1

EXHIBIT A

CHURCH HISTORY

On November 11, 1964, Rev. George W. Pryor along with thirteen (13) other family members and friends were led by the Holy Spirit to unite as "one body in Christ" and accept the name **NEW BIRTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**. The charter members are:

Pastor George W. Pryor	Brother Oran Pryor
Sister Alma Jewel Pryor	Brother Henry L.
Wooten, Sr.	
Brother Solomon T. Boyd	Brother Billy Bruce
Pryor	
Brother James O. Harrison	Sister Johnnie Ruth
Pryor	
Sister Alice Harrison	Brother Rufus Pryor
Brother Tommy C. Pryor	Sister Willie Mavis Pryor
Sister Earnestine Pryor	Sister Glenda Sue Pryor

Honorable Memories: Sister Euelar Wooten and Brother Joe Harrison, Jr. are honorary Charter Members of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church who committed to the organization of the church on November 11, 1964. Because of a family emergency, Sister Wooten was unable to attend and formally united with the church on Sunday, November 15, 1964. Brother Joe Harrison, Jr. was scheduled to render a solo during the organization service, however, God called him home on November 11, 1964. We forever cherish their memories and their commitment to the New Birth Church family.

The church organizing service was held at the Third Avenue Baptist Church, 802 Third Avenue and Rev. L. G. Jackson, Pastor served as the Moderator of the service. Our first church worship was held at the home of Pastor George and Sister Alma Pryor on November 15, 1964 at 1347 Whitaker Avenue in Dallas, Texas. Sister Alma Pryor taught the children in the bedroom as Pastor Pryor preached to the adults in the living room. Our services were held in the home of Pastor and Sister Pryor until the building and property were purchased at 3601 S. Fitzhugh Avenue in March 1965.

OUR FIRST EDIFICE

The first building owned by the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church was located at 3601 S. Fitzhugh in South Dallas. The Church property was purchased in March of 1965, and 31 members made the move from 1347 Whitaker Avenue. Our auxiliaries included the Youth Choir, under the direction of Sister Debra Wooten and a Senior Choir with Sister Rosie Reed Johnson as the first musician and later Sister Katy Dorsey. Brother Oran Pryor was the President of our Usher Board and Rev. Claudell Pryor served as Superintendent of the Sunday School Department and our first Assistant Pastor. Sister Jacquelyn Dozier (Haggerty) was the first church secretary. Brother J. D. Harrison volunteered to work with Pastor Pryor on building and ground maintenance. Much of the first equipment was donated by Pastor George Pryor to be used by the church. The first two pianos, a car and a 1961 Ford were contributed. The 1961 Oldsmobile was also used to transport members like Sister Paula Watkins and Sister Cora Lewis. During the early years of the church, Pastor George Pryor served as bus driver, janitor, yard man, evangelism team leader, etc. Pastor Pryor performed his first wedding ceremony for Brother Ollie Ray Pyburn and Sister Freddie Jean Bluitt Pyburn.

SECOND EDIFICE

God continued to add to the New Birth Church family and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Pryor was led to purchase a larger building. The property at 2946 Idaho Avenue (corner of Idaho and McVey) was purchased on November 11, 1968. The first worship service was held on the third Sunday in January of 1969, and 185 members made the move from Fitzhugh to Idaho. God blessed our church family to continue to grow. During the early 1970s, out of an enrolled membership of 1784, the regular attendance in the Morning Worship grew to approximately 500 members filling the sanctuary to capacity. Pastor Pryor later discerned the need for more expansion. Numerous improvements were made including expansion of the choir loft and pulpit and remodeling of classrooms. In April 1973, a wing was added to provide additional seating and the parking lot was expanded. In looking back over the 15 years at the Idaho location, God's blessings were too numerous to name. God has always sustained the church financially as well as in other ways. Support of the church has always been maintained primarily through contributions of our members. During the early years, donations received through programs, such as the Junior of the Year Pageant which began in 1969 under the direction of Sister Alma Jewel Pryor provided much needed additional financial support. Through the faithful contributions of the members and the leadership of Pastor Pryor, God blessed us to pay off the mortgage of the church in June of 1983. The Mortgage Burning Ceremony was held on the third Sunday in June 1983.

THIRD EDIFICE

"Where there is no vision, the people perish. . . " God blessed the Founding Pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church to be a man of great vision. Amidst the skepticism and criticism of men, plans for building the church at 444 W. Ledbetter Drive began. On June 13, 1982, thirteen acres of land were purchased on Loop 12 for a new church site. The Ground-Breaking Ceremony and Dedication Services were held in June of 1983 and immediately construction began. On June 17, 1984, the Entrance Day services were held. Our membership records reflected a total enrollment of 1,784 when we moved from Idaho to Ledbetter. The relocation to 444 W. Ledbetter has included the acquisition of the 13-acre property and development of more than 38,000 square ft. in improvements valued in excess of \$3,500,000 to accommodate a growing membership. The construction of the Jesus Center (a multi-purpose building) was completed in June 1993, and the center has housed a Day Care Academy, senior's programs, and numerous community events. The Opening Celebration for the Jesus Center was attended by dignitaries around the country and the late Dr. S. M. Wright, Sr. honored our church family by providing the Prayer of Dedication. God has always honored His word, and through the faith of our Pastor and other members, the membership has grown to over 5,000. In June 2004, God blessed the New Birth family to retire the mortgage on both the Sanctuary and Jesus Center.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

On January 10, 2016, the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church made another major milestone in church history by transitioning pastoral duties to Rev. Michael D. Pryor, the youngest son of Dr. George and Sis. Alma Pryor, as Executive Pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Michael D. Pryor served in dual duties as Pastor of Third Avenue Baptist Church for nineteen years while serving as Executive Minister for New Birth Baptist Missionary Church for twenty-five years. Pastor Michael D. Pryor has continued the work and service of his father as being a very hands-on shepherd and a dynamic speaker bringing the Word of God to the congregation where, *"the rubber meets the road."* We were blessed to share this momentous occasion with several local and out-of-town officials. Rev. Dennis Carl Jones, Executive Secretary/Treasurer of Foreign Mission Board in the NBCA and Pastor of Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, Texas provided the charge to the church; Rev. David Jones, President of the Baptist Minister's Conference and Pastor of Arlington Park 1st Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas provided the charge to the Pastor; Rev. Roy E. Brackins, Pastor of Grace

Tabernacle Baptist Church, Forest Hill, Texas; Rev. Terry White, Chairman of Home Missionary BCA and Pastor of Marsalis Avenue Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; and finally, Dr. Harry Blake, Pastor of Mount Canaan Baptist Church, Shreveport, Louisiana presented the sermon.

PASSING OF THE BATON

Our Founding Senior Pastor Dr. George W. Pryor was called home to be with the Lord on September 8, 2018. The New Birth Missionary Baptist Church family hosted the Celebration of Life and Legacy and the Homegoing Services of our beloved Senior Pastor in services on September 13, 2018 and September 14, 2018. Thousands of family members and friends from around the country were in attendance for the two-day celebration, including local, state and national religious and political leaders. At the climax of the Homegoing Services, Dr. Harry Blake, Pastor Emeritus of Mount Canaan Baptist Church of Shreveport, Louisiana led the **"Passing of the Baton"** observance changing the title of our Executive Pastor and conferring the title **Pastor** to Rev. Michael D. Pryor. We praise God that the "Legacy and Leadership Continues."

"As we move forward, may we never forget the sacrifices made by our members, both past and present. And as we look forward to the coming of Jesus Christ; may He continue to keep our church safe in His arms."

FOUNDER REV. DR. GEORGE WYNN PRYOR

George Wynn Pryor was born to the lineage of the late Claude Pryor and Eliza Wynn Pryor on September 19, 1938 in Sulphur Springs, Texas. He is the eleventh of twelve children born to this union. On November 11, 1964, George W. Pryor, along with thirteen (13) members were led by the Holy Spirit to unite as "one body in Christ" and organized the New Birth Baptist Church.

The Reverend George W. Pryor is a product of the Sulphur Springs Public School system. The educational pursuits of Pastor Pryor led him to Bishop College where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree. His post-graduate studies included coursework at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Pastor Pryor was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity Degree by the Southern Bible Institute, Dr. Gordon Mumford – President, on May 4, 1986.

With strong family values, Rev. George W. Pryor and the former Alma Jewel Harrison were united in holy matrimony on August 1, 1959. To this union four children have been born: Pamela Andrea, Darrell Wynn, Michael Dwain, and Tammy Adrian.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

Acquisition of several church sites: including the purchase and relocation to 444 W. Ledbetter Drive on 13 acres with 38,000 square ft. in improvements valued in excess of \$3,500,000 to accommodate a growing membership and enrollment of more than five thousand (5,000); opened the Jesus Center (a multipurpose building) in 1993 which has housed a Day Care Academy; seniors programs, and numerous community events.

A father in the ministry to more than one hundred (100) sons of which thirty-three (33) or more are now Pastors.

The George W. Pryor Scholarship was established in 1988 in his honor, and more than 30 students have received scholarships with stipend and grant awards of over \$100,000.

Sustained contributions to National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. Foreign Mission Board to countries in Africa and Asia, providing aid to combined efforts, including the building of hospitals and schools as well as facilitating World Relief efforts in several countries; regularly contributes to relief efforts in Haiti.

National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. – member and Conference Presenter for more than two decades.

Recipient of Kuta Keza Kazi Award for Community Service by the Dallas Regional National Alliance of Black School Educators – May 23, 2003.

Recipient of Outstanding Texan Award by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus, the Honorable Joseph Deshotel – Chair, February 7, 2003.

Recognition by the City of Dallas, the Honorable Mayor Ron Kirk, for Community Service on August 18, 2001.

Induction into the Elite News Religious Hall of Fame with recognition by the Honorable Yvonne Davis, District #111.

February 5, 1993 – honored as Pastor of the Year by the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance for Outstanding Pastoral Leadership.

Recipient of recognition by Governor Ann Richards for Outstanding Community Leadership on February 4, 1993.

The 2010 recipient of the Whitney M. Young Award, Dallas Urban League.

Recognized by Dallas Morning News as Living Legend, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

President - Dallas Baptist Minister's Union & Vicinity, 2012 – 2018

Vice President - Interdenominational Minister's Alliance City Wide Revival

Former Second Vice President- Oak Cliff Baptist Ministers Union

Life Member: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

President – North Texas Regional Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Pastor of church with active membership in regular attendance of approximately 2,000 (currently holding two Sunday Morning Worship Services)

Instructor of Bible Study with enrollment of 200.

Moderator Dallas Regional District Association which includes 21 other churches with an aggregate membership of 2,000 which supports the National and State Conventions, Colleges, Red Cross, Missionary.

Programs and Scholarships, and numerous other charitable organizations

Weekly Expositor: International Sunday School Lesson.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared through daily broadcast on radio stations and television stations throughout DFW Metroplex.

We believe this life lived is worthy of the request to have the street renamed based upon the commitment he made in his life to positively impact the Oak Cliff community and individuals and families throughout the country.

New Birth Baptist Church has been a resource to the Oak Cliff community for many years and our Ministry continues to seek opportunities to positively impact our community and members.