

Rehoboth Miracle Temple Church of God In Christ

2830 W. Hadley Street

Supt. RO Mills Pastor

Church: 414 447 7887, Home: 414 358 2075

March 27, 2003

Regarding: Proposal to Rename West Hadley Street between 27th and 29th Streets, "Elder Virdell Wallace Way"

To Whom It May Concern:

The Founders Day Committee, comprising both past and present members of Rehoboth Miracle Temple Church of God In Christ, (*called "Rehoboth" throughout this document*), along with the many people whose lives Elder Virdell Wallace touched, propose to the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee to rename West Hadley Street between 27th and 29th Streets, as "***Elder Virdell Wallace Way***".

The late Elder Virdell Wallace was recognized in this community as a religious and civic leader who unselfishly reached out to the community he served with consistency and love and made a significant impact in the lives of many. The importance of such an event would uphold his legacy as well as identify a need in the African American community to visually see their local heroes on the streets in which they live, work and watch their children play. Elder Virdell Wallace was born January 3, 1903 in Mt. Ray, Louisiana. He departed this life for his spiritual reward on June 21, 1994, at the age of 91.

The late Elder Virdell Wallace and his wife Mother Mary Wallace founded Rehoboth in 1936. Elder Wallace was called to the ministry as a young man and within a few years started his pastoralship. God opened many spiritual doors and blessed his ministry. In the early 1940's, along with his dedicated wife he became the founder and organizer of the Rehoboth Miracle Temple Church of God In Christ, and was ordained Pastor by the National Headquarters of The Church of God In Christ located in Memphis, Tennessee.

Rehoboth relocated to a beautiful Jewish synagogue (now demolished) at 1102 West Vine Street. Elder and Mother Wallace sold their home and car to help purchase this facility. The name Rehoboth Miracle Temple was befitting due to the many miracles performed there and the community was greatly affected by this ministry. People came from near and far to hear this small man with the loud and strong voice. Elder Wallace's ministry extended over the radio ways

with a Sunday night broadcast called "*The Old Time Revival Hour*". People left their local churches to be a part of this program. The church flourished at this new location and Rehoboth became the landmark church of the community. As a result, Rehoboth was known nationally as a church of growth and promise. Many state, interstate and national officials held their services and meetings at this beautiful edifice, as it became a pillar in the community.

Elder Wallace was a man on the move and there was no stopping him. He would begin to travel south to Mississippi to hold revival meetings. While there, he saw the need for food, clothing and shelter for the poor. He would solicit donations from his members and the community and load trucks full of food clothing and necessities for these people. He would also help some of them relocate to Milwaukee providing temporary shelter in the church itself and help them find jobs in the city.

In 1973, under the auspices of Elder Wallace, Rehoboth purchased its' current location at 2830 West Hadley Street. At this new location, God continued to bless the ministry to flourish. Rehoboth became the birthplace of many current ministries today. Under his leadership came great bishops, pastors, elders, missionaries and great evangelizers. In 1980, Elder Wallace was the visionary behind one the greatest revival meetings in the City of Milwaukee. It was called the Citywide Crusade for Christ, held at the Milwaukee Auditorium. The theme of this great revival became, "Seek the Lost through Pentecost at any Cost". A great march was held as a precursor to this event. Guest speakers and preachers of all denominations from around the country annually came to become a part of this great event. The Milwaukee Journal wrote an article entitled, "*He'll Never Grow To Old To Dream*" about the legacy of Elder Virdell Wallace.

God in his infinite wisdom and divine love called home his servant Elder Virdell Wallace to rest on June 21, 1994. He was a great humanitarian. From the beginning of his walk with the Lord, he had a great passion for people - young and old. His church was a house of refuge for many of the Saints that came from the South. He was a man with a mission and his mission was to "*Seek the Lost through Pentecost at any Cost*". His ministry reached from Wisconsin to Mississippi and to other parts of the country. He reached out to the community through whatever means necessary to accomplish his vision. Elder Wallace also shared his ministry with the community through outdoor services. Elder Wallace was an innovator and an entrepreneur. He was the owner of a dry cleaner and grocery store. He was also employed by Allis Chalmers until he retired. He received various awards, accolades and in particular a presidential award from former President Ronald Reagan commemorating his 80th birthday celebration. Much can be said about Elder Virdell Wallace, but one thing is for

sure, he is a man that will never be forgotten. He wanted everyone to come to salvation by means of Christ Jesus.

Therefore we respectfully submit this proposal to the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee to rename West Hadley Street between 27th and 29th Streets, as "***Elder Virdeil Wallace Way***". I can be reached at 414 247 1883 with any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara J. Biddle".

Barbara J. Biddle
Chairperson, Founders Day Committee