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**TOWN OF MORRISTOWN
ORDINANCE O-18-2012**

ORDINANCE TO RENAME CENTER STREET TO BISHOP NAZERY WAY

WHEREAS, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has recently requested that the Town Council consider changing the name of Center Street to Bishop Nazery Way; and

WHEREAS, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Morristown was incorporated in 1843 and is the first church in Morris County organized by people of African American descent; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Willis Nazery served as the first pastor of Bethel AME Church, Morristown; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Nazery was elected a Bishop at the General Conference in New York City on May 7, 1852, wherein he presided over the African Methodist Episcopal Churches in Canada, which were established by former slaves after they escaped through the underground railroad; and

WHEREAS, following the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850 it became increasingly dangerous for African Canadian Church officials to travel to the annual conferences of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1856 the British Methodist Episcopal Church was established and Bishop Nazery was elected its first bishop; and

WHEREAS, after the American Civil War ended most African Methodist Episcopal and British Methodist Episcopal Churches united; and

WHEREAS, because of this history the Morris County Heritage Commission recently recognized the historical significance of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Bishop Nazery; and

WHEREAS, because of the historical significance of Bishop Willis Nazery the Town Council supports changing the name of Center Street to Bishop Nazery Way;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Morristown as follows:

1. That the Town Engineer and Tax Assessor for the Town of Morristown be and are hereby authorized and directed to amend the official map and the official Tax Map of the Town of Morristown to rename Center Street to Bishop Nazery Way; and
2. That the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to amend the Town Code in all places to reflect the change of name to Bishop Nazery Way; and

3. That the Town Clerk be and hereby is authorized and directed to file a certified copy of this Ordinance with the Morris County Register, the Morris County Superintendent of Elections, the New Jersey Secretary of State, the Morristown Postmaster and any other County, State, or Federal Agency which requires notification of a street name change.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED. any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED. this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with law.

I do hereby certify the above to be a true and exact copy of an Ordinance duly passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Morristown at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, in the Morristown Council Room, 200 South Street, Morristown, New Jersey, beginning at 7:30 P.M., prevailing time.

DATED: August 15, 2012



Matthew Stechauner
Town Clerk

