

I want to thank you for gathering here today for another day in history. Our course has already been established that this nation was created in liberty and the reality that all men are created equal. Our 156th-anniversary date February 18, 1868, these people buried here knew that in the not- too- distant future, freedom from bondage might well be within their reach. Their hopes stemmed from two beliefs: first external liberator, or internal liberators would come to their assistance, and second, the growing conviction of God their father would grant secular as well spiritual freedom. And I quote, "But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground." It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do it! The people who lay here are our ancestors who suffered, sacrifice and struggled for us in order that we would enjoy our new birth given in the First Amendment of the Constitution of American, freedom of religion, after the signing of the emancipation proclamation following the establishment the St. Lloyd Presbyterian Church on October 20, 1867, and on February 18, 1868 chose this site for the place of worship. Upon leaving Sharon Presbyterian Church in August 1865, it was just two month of the ending of civil war June 2, 1865 stone's throw away from here with their faith in God. Our ancestors "have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they did" suffered, sacrifice and struggled that we would have a nation, under God where all mankind is created equal and in "love" for each other which is the "Greatest Command of all the Command. And we, St. Lloyd Presbyterian Cemetery Foundation remains committed to the "Presbyterian birthright of a strong discipline in educating and learning by not whitewashing our history or cover up its past sins, nor omit any key facts. St Lloyd Presbyterian Church provide one of the first school for the newly enslaved citizen for 42 years before the Board of Education step up in 1910. We are preserving these two remaining grave sites of Charlotte-Mecklenburg County's history where you can reflect and enjoy the peace in knowing that we are all "God's Children"! With this promise, that he will never leave us or nor

will he forsake us, if we put our trust in him. As I told my team and told you today, this project is bigger than us!

With special thanks to Clay Grubb and family, Thompson and Danny Whitley for the donation of the grave sites which are Colony and Wendover Road. Along with our partner, Sharon Presbyterian Church, City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, The Presby of Charlotte and Donna Farris which promoted our first cemetery clean-up and Dreamkey Partners for their support additional cleaning. The team are some of the greatest people in the world, new media for helping us tell our stories. (board to stand) Now, I ask you the public to join the St. Lloyd Cemetery Foundation to help make this world a better place for generation too come, as the generation before did for us!

With a grateful and thankful heart, we say thank you!