

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

Commending Ebenezer Baptist Church

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlottesville is celebrating 125 years of serving the community in Christ's name; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded on March 25, 1892, by the Reverend Alexander Truatt; and

WHEREAS, the original church building was destroyed by fire in 1907, but a new Ebenezer Baptist Church edifice was rebuilt on the same location just 11 months later, in Charlottesville's historic Starr Hill neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, in the early part of the 20th century, Ebenezer Baptist Church purchased a parsonage and Deacon Adolphus Paige, Sr., rebuilt the structure, which is now located at 402 8th Street NW; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church's ambitious three-year \$250,000 maintenance, renovation, and restoration efforts in the first decade of the 21st century included the comprehensive refinishing of the church sanctuary, which features a Hilbourne Roosevelt Pipe Organ; and

WHEREAS, included in the upgrades made by Ebenezer Baptist Church was the purchase and installation of an elevator lift, a project that was recognized by the City of Charlottesville with the 2008 Herman Key Access to the Disabled Award; and

WHEREAS, the University of Virginia recognized Ebenezer Baptist Church's mission efforts by creating an academic course "Disaster Preparedness in St. Kitts and Nevis," an annual overseas research study practicum for approximately 30 undergraduate students; and

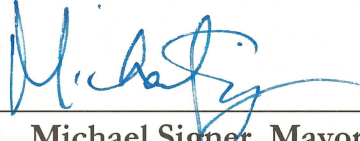
WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church reaches out to help the underserved in the Charlottesville community through participation in projects and partnerships with other congregations and interfaith fellowship organizations; and

WHEREAS, during its 125-year history as an agent of change, Ebenezer Baptist Church has been served by 17 pastors and, since 2006, the Reverend Dr. Lehman D. Bates II has led the church's congregation; and

WHEREAS, Ebenezer Baptist Church marks its 125th anniversary in 2017 during a weekend of celebratory events March 17 - 19 that culminates with a 125th anniversary worship service on Sunday, followed by dinner;

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, do hereby commend Ebenezer Baptist Church in Charlottesville on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of its founding.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of March 2017.


Michael Signer, Mayor

