

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Zion Union Baptist Church 130th Anniversary

WHEREAS Zion Union Baptist Church was established one hundred thirty years ago on March 16, 1895, by a devoted group of Christian workers who formerly attended Mount Zion Baptist Church; this pioneering congregation, having no appointed place of worship, held their first services in the old firehouse building on West Main Street; and

WHEREAS Zion Union Baptist Church built a small frame church before constructing its second magnificent church building on 4th Street, NW in 1907, in a neighborhood where African American families settled following the Civil War, later known as the Vinegar Hill Historic District; and on December 13, 1964, the congregation held its last worship service in the 4th Street church building, as the neighborhood was demolished under the Charlottesville Redevelopment Program; and

WHEREAS despite significant challenges, including difficulty in securing local financing, Zion Union Baptist Church remained steadfast in faith, securing a loan from a bank in New York and continuing to worship at Jefferson School Auditorium until the congregation triumphantly marched to its new and current church home at 1015 Preston Avenue on August 28, 1966; and

WHEREAS for over a century, Zion Union Baptist Church has enriched the Charlottesville community, providing multiple ministries and outreach programs including tutoring and summer programs for youth, health and vaccination clinics, community service projects, collection drives for homeless veterans, and supporting community persons outside of church membership to have funerals or memorial services.; and

WHEREAS Zion Union Baptist Church remains a pillar of faith and service in the Charlottesville community continues to open its doors to the community, hosting religious organizations, community partners, and providing a place of worship, support, and outreach for all in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Charlottesville City Council hereby recognizes and celebrates the 130th anniversary of Zion Union Baptist Church and we commend its enduring contributions to the cultural fabric of our city and to uplifting the Charlottesville community.

Signed and sealed this 4th day of March 2025.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk