

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

HONORING THE 20TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF REVEREND DR. LEHMAN BATES II

WHEREAS Reverend Dr. Lehman Bates II has faithfully served as Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church since 2006, providing steadfast spiritual leadership, compassionate guidance, and visionary direction to his congregation and the greater Charlottesville community; and

WHEREAS over the course of twenty years of devoted ministry, Pastor Bates has strengthened Ebenezer Baptist Church through growth, innovation, and service, including the expansion of worship outreach through televised and broadcast ministries and the enhancement of church accessibility and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS Pastor Bates has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to global and local mission work, leading relief and outreach efforts in response to disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and the Haiti earthquake, coordinating international medical missions, and supporting communities in need both abroad and at home; and

WHEREAS Pastor Bates has been a tireless advocate for equity, justice, and community unity, contributing his leadership to numerous civic and academic initiatives, including the City's Dialogue on Race, university-community partnerships, and efforts addressing racial equity and health disparities; and

WHEREAS, in times of local and national challenge, including the events surrounding August 2017 and the COVID-19 pandemic, Pastor Bates has provided moral leadership, organized community response efforts, and ensured vital resources reached families in need; and

WHEREAS Pastor Bates has fostered meaningful partnerships across faith communities, nonprofit organizations, and public institutions, advancing initiatives such as food distribution programs, community forums, interfaith collaboration, and support for underserved populations; and

WHEREAS his leadership has been recognized through numerous honors and appointments, reflecting his enduring impact on faith, civic life, and the well-being of the Charlottesville community; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, Reverend Dr. Lehman Bates II celebrates twenty years of pastoral service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, marking a legacy of faith, service, and transformational leadership;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Juandiego R. Wade, Mayor of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, do hereby proclaim recognition and celebration of the 20th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Lehman Bates II, and call upon all residents to join in honoring his extraordinary contributions to our community.

Signed and dated the 5th day of April 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk