

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

University Baptist Church 125th Anniversary

WHEREAS The history of University Baptist Church began when a large group of former members of the Charlottesville Baptist Church met at the Levy Opera House on October 4, 1900 for the purpose of organizing a new Baptist church to form the High Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS The members of the High Street Baptist Church voted in 1926 to relocate to 1223 West Main Street as University Baptist Church to better minister to the students and faculty of the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS The cornerstone of University Baptist Church was laid on September 5, 1928, with the building being dedicated on August 11, 1929, just months before the stock market crash that began the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS The University Baptist Church building was sold and padlocked at foreclosure in December 1937, forcing the congregation to meet elsewhere; and

WHEREAS The congregation repurchased the building, following an intensive fundraising campaign led by Dr. Cecil Cook with services resuming in April 1939, thus demonstrating that a church is much more than just a building; and

WHEREAS University Baptist Church has continuously ministered to the University of Virginia and Charlottesville Community in the years since;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Charlottesville City Council recognizes and celebrates the 125th anniversary of University Baptist Church and the contributions of its members in service to Charlottesville and The University of Virginia.

Signed and sealed this 15th day of September 2025.

Mayor

Clerk of Council