



Proclamation

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church, whose origins date back as early as the 1840s, built its first church on its current site in Downtown Gastonia in 1885, and later in 1900 as the church grew, constructed a larger church on the same site; and expanded again in the same location in 1956, constructing the current sanctuary, educational rooms, and church offices; and

WHEREAS, in that time, the congregation has grown from approximately 110 members in the 1880s to approximately 1,500 today; and

WHEREAS, the congregation is poised to grow once again when it breaks ground on Sunday, May 6 on a \$5 million expansion and renovation of its existing facility in Downtown Gastonia. The new building will include a new Narthex and gathering space, additional offices and meeting rooms as well as a renovation of existing classrooms and meeting spaces and safety, security and ADA access upgrades; and

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church, first and foremost, seeks to unite Christ, Church, and Community through this project; to create yet another opportunity to share the Good News of Christ through this expanded facility; to reach beyond the church's walls and provide a source of hope to our neighbors, encourage good in our community, and promote peace among our citizens; and

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church also wishes to demonstrate its commitment to the Downtown community and its Center City neighbors through this project.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, thank **First United Methodist Church** for its ongoing ministries which uplift our community and specifically acknowledge the church's continued commitment and investment in our Center City, especially in the latest expansion of their facility.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 17th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sherry H. Dunaway, City Clerk