



Mayoral Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing the Shepherds of Zion Ministries International Church for their Service and Support to the Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- WHEREAS,** the Shepherds of Zion Ministries International Church was founded in 2014 by Reverend Apostle Smith K. O. Vodi and Reverend Evangelist Yvonne Vodi; and
- WHEREAS,** the Shepherds of Zion Ministries International Church is known for its open door policy welcoming all to the church's worship services and for providing a number of ministries that serve the community; and
- WHEREAS,** one of the Church's missions is to engage the local communities in the fight to end hunger by working with food providers and a broad network of collaborative working partners, such as the United States Veteran Reserve Corps, who volunteer with the congregation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Shepherds of Zion Ministries International Church Feeding the Hungry and Food Distribution Program started in Silver Spring in 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** the distribution program moved to Takoma Park Elementary School in 2019; and
- WHEREAS,** since its 2014 inception, the congregation has provided free food to approximately 70,000 families; and
- WHEREAS,** the Church has responded to the increase of families in need of food due to the COVID-19 pandemic by changing food distribution from once a month to bi-weekly at the Takoma Park Elementary School.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE STEWART, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, on behalf of the Council, staff, and residents, do hereby express appreciation to the Shepherds of Zion Ministries International Church for its service and support to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2021.

Kate Stewart
Mayor