



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the year 2024 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the historic New Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Ocala, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the formation of this congregation, members in the rural area of the current SW 27th Avenue travelled by horse to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in the City of Ocala to hear the word of the Lord and to share their faith with members of the church; and

**WHEREAS**, 1874 was a jubilant year where the early members of the New Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church felt it was time to establish a place of worship where as Christians they could sing, give praise, pray and worship with fullness of their spirit; and

**WHEREAS**, the initial place of worship was under a brush harbor, but through the blessings of God, the membership grew and purchased property where it constructed a sanctuary and fellowship facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church has a well-known history of excellent pastors, leaders and congregants who have been at the forefront of our community's spiritual, academic, cultural, social, service, civil rights, and political advancement; and

**WHEREAS**, Rev. Warren F. Hardaway is the officially installed pastor, the second child born to the late Mr. Emmett A. Hardaway and Mrs. Mary M. Hardaway. He received a Bachelor of Electronic Degree from DeVry University, Atlanta, Georgia, the Bachelor of Theology Degree from the United Theological Seminary, Monroe, Louisiana, and the Master of Divinity Degree in Homiletics and Christian Education from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College, Monroe, Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, the historic New Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church family will launch its 150th Anniversary celebrations on January 19, 2024 at the College of Central Florida, Harvey Klein Conference Center.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ben Marciano**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim January 28, 2024, as:

## **SHADY GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 150th ANNIVERSARY DAY**

in the City of Ocala and I urge all citizens to join with me in paying tribute to this church.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 26th day of January 2024.



*Ben Marciano*

Ben Marciano, Mayor  
City of Ocala