

Proclamation

City of Palm Springs

CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson graduated from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio with a Masters in Divinity in June, 1978 and was ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church on June, 1979; and,

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson was later dismissed from a local church for coming out of the closet and worked as a small business executive in Chicago from 1982 – 2002; and,

WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson returned to the ministry in 2002 when he and his husband, Michael Shear, moved to Palm Springs in collaboration with Methodist organizations to start and promote an inclusive Christian ministry; and,

WHEREAS, Bloom in the Desert Ministries first gathered for Bible study on September 18, 2002, and for the first worship service on March 9, 2003, at Palapas Rose Garden; and,

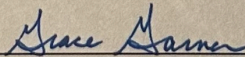
WHEREAS, in 2004 Bloom in the Desert Ministries pursued standing in the United Church of Christ which was established by vote of the Eastern Association of the Southern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ on October 29, 2005; and,

WHEREAS, Bloom in the Desert Ministries, United Church of Christ celebrated its twentieth anniversary in March, 2023 with a membership roll of 140+ members agitating for God's peace and justice in our community and around the world; and,

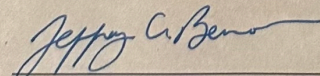
WHEREAS, Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson will retire as founding Pastor of Bloom in the Desert Ministries United Church of Christ on September 24, 2023; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we the City Council of the City of Palm Springs, California, by the power vested in us, do hereby want to thank Rev. Dr. Kevin A. Johnson "Rev Kev" and his husband Michael Shear for over twenty years of dedication and service on the occasion of "Rev Kev's" retirement proclaiming September 24, 2023, to be:

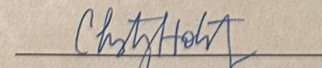
"Rev.Dr. Kevin A Johnson Day"



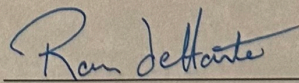
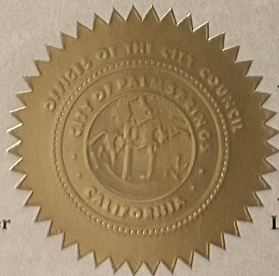
Grace Garner, Mayor



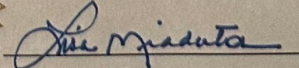
Jeffrey Bernstein, Mayor Pro Tem



Christy Holstege, Council Member



Ron deHarte, Council Member



Lisa Middleton, Council Member