



The United Methodist Church Indiana Area

North Indiana Annual Conference
South Indiana Annual Conference

March 26, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Broadway United Methodist Church's campaign for community called *The Miracle on 29th Street*. I have been fortunate to learn about this innovative, progressive effort throughout its development, and as it begins to bear fruit, I am eager to express my support.

The Miracle on 29th Street will strengthen partnerships between Broadway and its neighbors – individuals, families, businesses, community organizations, and congregations. I am proud of the congregation's commitment to reaching out to people of diverse faiths to do what's right for the community.

Under Rev. Mike Mather's leadership, this campaign will not create new staff positions simply to develop programs and meet needs; rather, it will create opportunities for holy encouragement and collaboration in a way that uncovers and embraces the gifts of individuals and communities, connecting them together to realize God's vision for the parish. Neighborhood ministries, arts/music ministries, and children/youth ministries will all be supported by this forward-looking campaign.

In this day and age, innovative, improvisational ministry is where God is calling us. Broadway is leading the way, not only within their walls, and in their local neighborhood, but also in working ecumenically and across faith traditions to strengthen the impact and the reach of their ministry.

The ministry components of this campaign will become a model for other congregations – United Methodist and otherwise – in engaging their surrounding communities. At its heart, this effort is about preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, and release to the oppressed.

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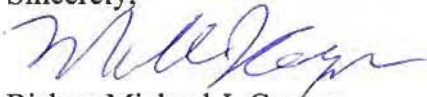
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I deeply regret that, at this time, the South Indiana Conference is unable to make a financial gift to this campaign. Right now we are in a situation of budget cut-backs and reorganization as we consider a merger of the North and South Conferences in the state of Indiana. It is my sincere hope, though, that our inability to financially support this effort will not be interpreted as a lack of support for what Rev. Mather and the Broadway congregation are doing. Their vision of church and community as genuine partners and their contagious hope for a successful future are inspiring, and I am honored to provide this letter of support for *The Miracle on 29th Street*.

I will, of course, remember Rev. Mather and Broadway's staff, members, and community in my prayers. I look forward to hearing more about the campaign's progress and this effort's impact on the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Bishop Michael J. Coyner

"Making a Difference ... in Indiana and around the world."

MJC/ekm