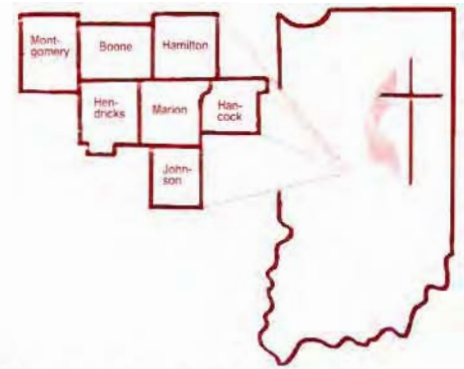


The United Methodist Church
South Indiana Conference
Indianapolis East and West Districts
Metro Ministries, Inc.



To Whom It May Concern:

When I first began my tenure as Superintendent of the Indianapolis-West District, Rev. Mike Mather of Broadway United Methodist Church talked with me about an effort called *The Miracle on 29th Street*. Over the past several months, I have been excited to learn more about this campaign to enhance ministries for children and youth, strengthen neighborhood and community ministries, increase music and arts ministries, and prepare for the future stewardship of the church's facilities and financial resources. I fully support this initiative, and it is my pleasure to provide this letter of endorsement.

Inner-city congregations around the country are responding in their own way to changing communities and shifting demographics; the challenges facing an urban church like Broadway are not unique. But Broadway's response is unique – the clergy, staff, and laity approach ministry with a commitment to seeing and activating the best in each individual and family in the community. The people of Broadway believe that God's spirit is poured out on all people and that we are all beloved children of God. And their "walk" matches their "talk" – a stroll around the church's neighborhood makes that clear. From violin lessons for any interested student to a community food pantry, and from the church's Roving Listener to any number of other community engagement efforts, this church is actively living its mission of seeking, welcoming and valuing all people.

Led by Rev. Mather and Dr. Rachel Metheny, the people of Broadway have also worked diligently to build strong relationships with neighborhood organizations, congregations, and other influential leaders. I am proud to see this work unfolding as an ecumenical effort where the United Methodist Church can play a role as the "leaven in the loaf" – not the loaf itself. Broadway has articulated – and lives out – a "parish" perspective, rather than a dualistic church/neighborhood perspective, which serves both those who worship there and those who live nearby.

It is clear that Broadway UMC is a special place where special things are happening. While the District's and Conference's resources do not allow us to participate with financial support at this time, we definitely lend our prayers and moral support to the effort. *The Miracle on 29th Street* will allow Broadway Church to continue to grow and develop in partnership with the parish community around it. It is my honor to provide this endorsement of this effort, as I believe it captures the best of what the United Methodist Church in Indianapolis can be: open to all, welcoming all, serving all, and showing God's love to all.

Sincerely,

Ned Steele, District Superintendent
Indianapolis West District