



Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation

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March 8, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of the Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of endorsement for Broadway United Methodist Church's *Miracle on 29th Street* initiative. This undertaking to enhance community and neighborhood ministries embraces the best of Broadway and the Mapleton-Fall Creek area for investment in the church and community alike.

The Mapleton-Fall Creek Development Corporation is made up of neighbors and representatives from area churches, as well as leaders of Mid-North Weed & Seed and the Mapleton-Fall Creek Neighborhood Association. We work to preserve Mapleton-Fall Creek's beautiful old homes, provide safe and affordable housing for our residents, stabilize economic opportunities for neighbors through commercial development, and partner with the numerous human assets who live and work in Mapleton-Fall Creek. Broadway UMC previously housed the MFCDC offices and has continued to be a strong partner in our work on behalf of our neighbors.

Through ongoing conversation with Broadway's lead pastor, Rev. Mike Mather, I have learned about the church's unique outlook on community development. Specifically, it has been a joy to partner with Broadway on the development of an innovative staff position called "Roving Listener." Tasked with visiting our neighbors and genuinely listening to them, the Roving Listener learns about our community's talents and dreams with the goal of creating connections and uncovering opportunities for those talents to be expressed and those dreams to be realized. This position, jointly supported by Broadway and the MFCDC, is just one example of how Broadway's creative ministries impact the entire community. *The Miracle on 29th Street* will enable church and community members to engage in more cooperative efforts like this one.

Broadway's clergy, staff and lay members have consistently shown leadership – formally as part of the development corporation and informally on an everyday basis – in building lasting partnerships with other congregations, businesses, families, and individuals in the neighborhood. Rev. Mather and other Broadway leaders have been significantly involved in our strategic planning process, and they have earned my trust and the trust of many by holding the development of the whole community as their priority.

The Miracle on 29th Street will help us continue to discover and activate resources within the entire Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood in both traditional and innovative ways. I enthusiastically support this effort because it brings together more of the institutions and people in the Mapleton-Fall Creek community to work to improve our lives and our future. I look forward to the opportunities that *The Miracle on 29th Street* will create!

Sincerely,

Shary Johnston
Executive Director



WORKFORCE
&
RETENTION



AFFORDABLE
HOUSING
ALWAYS GETTING STARTED



ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION



COMMUNITY
ENHANCEMENT