

CGB CC-0570

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FCC - MAILROOM



First United Methodist Church

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August 6th, 2006

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
4455 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I, George Beaston, have been volunteering to produce a video of my church's 11:00 Sunday worship service for the past fifteen years, which we air on the local television station. The production involves only one camera, a volunteer camera operator, and myself. I bring the tape to the station each week. We do not pay anyone to tape or edit the service. We use donated video equipment. This production is not intended to be a burden on the volunteers. Fifty-two weeks of the year we do this volunteer ministry. The service is not intended to be rebroadcast, as the prayer requests and sermons are topical in nature.

This ministry is funded completely by donations from our congregation only. Thus, we do not solicit funding during the broadcast of worship. To close-caption the service each week would entail paying a minimum of \$175 each week to an outside company. The ministry cannot support this expense without "divine intervention". In the meantime, will you please grant us a waiver so that we can continue this valuable ministry to the hearing Christians, and non-Christians in our viewing area. Each week we reach an estimated 9,000 viewers.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration in this matter. If we can provide additional information please let us know.

Sincerely,

George D. Beaston

George D. Beaston,
TV Ministry Committee

Christopher A. Fitzgerald
Christopher A. Fitzgerald,
Senior Pastor