



**First United
Methodist
Church**
A L B A N Y

307 Flint Avenue
Post Office Box 448
Albany, Georgia 31702-0448

ALBANY GA 317

27 JUL 2006 PM 1



02 1P

\$ 00.39⁰

0002395156 JUL 27 2006

Amelia Brown, Disability Rights Office
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

RECEIVED & INSPECTED
AUG 1 2006
FCC - MAILROOM

20554+0000



COB-CC-0441

CGB-CC-0441



First United Methodist Church

July 21, 2006

A L B A N Y
Amelia Brown, Disability Rights Office
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commission:

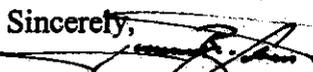
We recently received your letter dated June 28th requesting further information regarding First United Methodist Church's financial ability to comply with FCC-mandated Closed Captioning for our broadcast programming. Your letter indicated that the budgetary information provided in our two previous responses were insufficient, as well as our consideration of viable text alternatives to captioning. You requested we offer disclosure of "First United Methodist's overall budget and resources" and why captioning "would be burdensome" in that larger context.

Regarding consideration of text alternatives, at present the portion of our broadcast service involving congregational singing and congregational responses *is* texted for those in our broadcast audience who wish to participate in singing or are hearing impaired. Our sensitivity to audience needs is apparent. Text for announcements and sermons do not appear due to the fluid nature of those presentations.

Regarding your request for full disclosure of our total budget and financial assets, be assured that our denominational organ, The United Methodist Church, makes proper requirements in the financial accountability of each of its congregations, and our Business Manager is directly accountable in all financial matters to our local church committees entrusted with church governance. First United Methodist Church offers full financial disclosure to members and prospects desiring such information.

However, First Methodist does not feel incumbent to report direct and full financial disclosure to the Federal Government. We consider such a request from the FCC highly inappropriate and, given the persistent and insistent nature of recent multiple FCC requests, potentially harassing. There is Constitutional clarity on the bounds of Federal involvement in the affairs of the institutionalized church. First Methodist also regards any FCC requirement imposed on this congregation to limit our access to religious broadcasting, if due financial arrangements with a broadcast station are agreeable to the two parties, a form of Federal impingement on the freedom of religion. For these reasons, we are unwilling to provide the fuller budgetary and asset information you requested.

Sincerely,


Rev. Jim R. Coleman, Associate Minister

CC: U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson
U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss

 307 Flint Avenue • Post Office Box 448 • Albany, Georgia 31702-0448 • 229-432-7407 • Fax 229-439-9750