

First United Methodist Church

512 N. Main Street
High Point, NC 27260

Received & Inspected

JUN 7 - 2012

FCC Mail Room

The Rev. Dr. Chris Fitzgerald, Senior Pastor pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org

The Rev. Fran Moran, Associate Pastor pastorfran@fumc-highpoint.org

Phone: 336-889-4429

Fax: 336-889-0262

www.fumc-highpoint.org

Tuesday, May 29th, 2012

Case Identifier: CGB-CC-0570

Re: Request for close-captioning exemption for broadcast of First United Methodist Church's weekly broadcast of worship via WGHP-TV.

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Administrators:

We are writing to seek exemption from the closed captioning requirement for the weekly broadcast of worship at First United Methodist Church. Twenty years ago this church began the broadcast of an edited tape (i.e. 30 minutes) of the preceding week's worship service with the specific intention of not soliciting funds from the viewing public, but as a ministry and mission of this church. Thus, the entire cost of this ministry (\$36,400) has been funded by members and friends of this congregation. All staffing and editing of the tapes has been provided solely by volunteers as a labor of love in an effort to contain the rising costs of 'air time.' Two years ago we began adding a 'tag line' at the end of each broadcast thanking viewers who contributed to financially support this ministry. This was necessitated by budgetary concerns and lack of funds.

You have asked for budget/financial information from the organization as a whole as well as for this specific area/ministry. Attached you will find the financial statement with the appropriate areas highlighted. As you will note, the current balance in the TV Ministry fund will cover the cost of only one additional quarter. You will also find the monthly billing statement from the television station—Fox-8 WGHP-TV substantiating the cost of air time. It should be obvious that we are sustaining what we have, but not without financial sacrifice on the part of many parishioners.

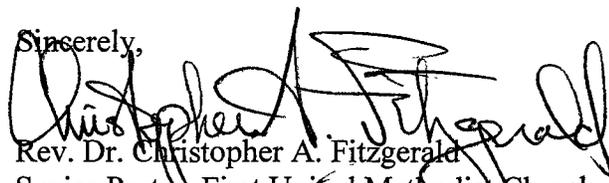
You have asked for estimates/bids for close captioning. Emails detailing this contact with Alan Kirby at All Pro Media are enclosed. You will note the additional expense that would be incurred—estimated at \$350/week. Please note also the additional delay in broadcast of "up to two weeks." This would mean that a typical Sunday's broadcast might not air until three weeks after the original worship service. This certainly would be awkward for the seasonal emphases at Christmas and Easter! Additional estimates were sought from two additional services—Closed Caption Maker in Harrisburg, PA and New Day Media in Tulsa, OK. Michael Poorman

with New Day Media in Tulsa issued a quote of \$140 to \$155 per broadcast depending upon the amount of transcription required. Closed Caption Maker did quote \$150/week for their service, but only if provided with a "complete transcript" of each part of the edited version of the service. This would necessitate hiring additional clerical help. Even the lowest estimate would add an additional \$7,280 to the annual cost of this ministry and would constitute an undue financial burden. Our church staff has not received a salary increase for the past five years. On top of that, the general staff accepted a 10% cut in pay. Obviously these are *challenging financial times!*

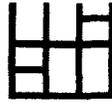
You have asked us to outline what efforts have been undertaken and investigated for additional funding. In 2006, First United Methodist Church did apply for, and received, a one-year grant from the Reynolds Fund of the United Methodist Foundation for \$5,000, and the High Point District awarded a "one-time" yearly grant of \$1,000 for this ministry. Subsequent applications for help have been unsuccessful. Documentation of this correspondence and the award in 2006 is enclosed. Note please that the denominational resources are limited and typically are issued on a "one-time only" basis. Given the challenges of funding, this ministry has led us, *prior to this close-captioning requirement*, to seek outside funding from denominational resources and the use of the 'tag line' at the end of each broadcast thanking viewers for their support. I should inform you that First UMC funds over fourteen local mission projects including a drug-treatment facility, food pantry, community clinic, and homeless shelter. We could divert money away from those causes, but in the current economic climate that would hardly seem in alignment with the church's stated mission. We simply want to provide those who are aged and homebound with an opportunity to experience Christian worship. We are certainly not unsympathetic to those with hearing-impairments—or any other challenge—but this requirement will constitute an undue financial burden that will likely end any positive benefit now enjoyed by the 8,000 to 10,000 regular viewers (as per Neilson Ratings) with the termination of this broadcast. Attached are copies of some of the comments of regular viewers whom we are pleased to serve. It would be unfortunate to end the benefit to those homebound individuals who do benefit from this ministry, but without an exemption that would likely be the result.

Having investigated the possibility of closed captioning, and having complied with your request for budgets, estimates, and funding possibilities we respectfully request exemption from this requirement. Should you require further information please feel free to contact us. We anxiously await your decision.

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Christopher A. Fitzgerald
Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church



WYATT EARLY HARRIS WHEELER
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

WILLIAM P. HARRIS

ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE

336-819-6037

FACSIMILE
336-819-6097

E-MAIL
WHARRIS@WEHWLAW.COM

May 30, 2012

Case Identifier: CGB-CC-0570

Re: Request for close-captioning exemption for broadcast of First United Methodist Church's weekly broadcast of worship via WGHP-TV.

Federal Communications Commission

Dear Sir or Madam:

I write on behalf of First United Methodist Church's (herein FUMC) application for closed-captioning exemption regarding its weekly broadcast over WGHP-TV here in High Point. I currently serve as Chair of the Church Council at FUMC and am familiar with the effort that has been undertaken over the years to sponsor and underwrite this broadcast on a weekly basis.

In requesting the exemption, we would point out the following:

- 1. This is a small, single church sponsored, very modest ministry with one primary objective: Provide the opportunity to those who cannot attend local worship services, for whatever reason, to have the opportunity of hearing and viewing a local church's service in the comfort and privacy of their home.**
- 2. Most, if not all, the technical work in generating this broadcast is done by church members who have self taught skills sufficient to generate the tape for broadcast locally the next week. I can say without reservation that, without the gratuitous services of these members, this ministry would have collapsed long ago for lack of funding for these services to be performed by outside resources.**
- 3. We believe that the closed captioning requirement is certainly a worthwhile objective (as are many other services that could be added to our televised broadcast) if we had adequate funding. Those with special needs are near and dear to the heart of this congregation; however, the reality is that this ministry cannot, at this moment in time, provide anything more than the very basic service that is currently being provided.**

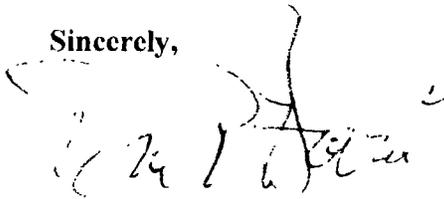
FCC Exemption Request Letter

Page 2

We realize the magnitude of the task you have before you in deciding when and under what circumstances to grant an exemption from the closed captioning requirement. It is our hope that FUMC would be granted the exemption, rather than just close down the television ministry (meager as it might seem to be based on our very limited budget and financial support). We would hope to add closed captioning and other worthwhile services if the funding was sufficient to warrant such additions. I hope you understand we are not seeking this exemption because we don't want to spend the money to provide the additional services. We simply do not have a source for the funding at this time considering the economic plight of our congregation and the viewers of our broadcast.

Thank you in advance for giving due consideration to our exemption request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William P. Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

**William P. Harris, Chair
First United Methodist Church Council**

pc: Pastor Chris Fitzgerald

Dear FCC Administrators:

Almost 20 years ago our church, First United Methodist in High Point, NC, had a vision of reaching out to our homebound and infirmed through a television ministry. We were not professionals, nor did we expect to become televangelists. We were simply seeking to fulfill our mission as the body of Christ and spread the word of God's grace to those of our congregation who could no longer attend regular Sunday morning services. Obviously an off-shoot of that effort might be bringing the message of hope and love to any viewer who might tune in and be in need.

We have never solicited any outside donations to fund the efforts of this ministry either by use of this airtime or by written request to anyone outside our congregation. We have never employed a professional staff to administer this ministry, i.e., cameramen, sound engineers, editors, etc. These tasks have been handled by volunteers from our congregation who have been taught through on-the-job initiation under fire. In fact, we have never paid anyone other than the local television station, and that only for the air time we require. This has all been done through congregational giving as an act of faithfulness and obedience to God's calling. Funding for this program is strictly voluntary and is unwritten by the General Budget of the church for a total of only \$1500 annually, or about two Sundays worth of air time. The remaining \$34,900 required to purchase air time is contributed by members of this congregation as 'second-mile' giving. This is an important mission of this church and is the only mission of its type in the entire Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church which includes over 1000 churches. Currently, the TV station estimates that the broadcast reaches 8,000-12,000 persons per week (as per Neilson Ratings).

I request you grant exemption to this ministry from the demands of whatever small minority might be served by closed captioning. This requirement will cause the closure of this ministry, because of the financial burden to comply and the majority who have benefitted from this ministry's purpose and message will suffer the consequences.

Thank you in advance for your decision to exclude this ministry from the requirement of offering closed captioning. You have done a good thing.

Sincerely,



Davis Beaston

Documentation of Financial Status:

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BALANCE SHEET**

Apr-12

	<u>OPERATING FUND *</u>	<u>RESTRICTED FUNDS</u>		<u>CONSOLI- DATION</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
		<u>MEMBERS DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>	<u>TRUSTEE MANAGED</u>		
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>					
CASH - CHECKING	92		6,123	-	6,214
CASH - OTHER	6,123	<u>184,682</u>	316,054	-	506,859
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>6,215</u>	<u>184,682</u>	<u>322,177</u>	-	<u>513,074</u>
<u>OTHER ASSETS</u>					
DUE FROM OPERATING FUND			305,478	305,478	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,215</u>	<u>184,682</u>	<u>627,655</u>	<u>305,478</u>	<u>513,074</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>					
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		-	-	-	-
EMPLOYEE WITHHOLDINGS	958	-	-	-	958
MISC. HOLDING	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
DRAFTS FOR FAITH FIRST		-	-	-	-
DRAFTS/MEDICAL REIMB. PASTORS		-	-	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>2,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,458</u>
<u>OTHER LIABILITIES</u>					
A/P - TRUSTEES	5,478			(5,478)	
A/P-WILLS & LEGACIES	300,000			(300,000)	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>307,936</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(305,478)</u>	<u>2,458</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>					
ACCUM. SURPLUS / DEFICIT	(20,197)				(20,197)
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS(DEFICIT)	(3,733)				(3,733)
PREPAID PLEDGES 2012	9,688				9,688
FUND BALANCE EXCESS 2011	18,000				18,000
ESTATE OF EARNEST BROOME		26,376			26,376
PROCEEDS FROM DOWDY SALE		9,254			9,254
DEBT RETIREMENT		60,448			60,448
ASP MISSION FUND		10,135			10,135
TV FUND		16,450			16,450
YOUTH MISSIONS		9,720			9,720
TALENT MONEY		4,152			4,152
COLUMBARIUM		10,837			10,837
HANDICAPPED BATHROOM REMODELING		6,237			6,237
OTHER		31,073			31,073
BOA - INTEREST			6,123		6,123
WILLS & LEGACIES			26,796	-	26,796
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ENDOWMENT			102,050	-	102,050
QUAKER LANE FUND			77,786	-	77,786
WILSON FUND			106,035	-	106,035
HOGUE ORGAN & SOUND FUND			3,388	-	3,388
A/P TO TRUSTEES	(5,478)		5,478		
A/P TO TRUSTEES	(300,000)		300,000		
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>(301,720)</u>	<u>184,682</u>	<u>627,655</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>510,616</u>

Please note this debt on building -

*currently 5/15/12
\$12,950
See attached
monthly bill for
airtime.*

* Operating Fund is Unrestricted.

INVOICE

for airtime



WGHP
 2005 Francis St.
 High Point, NC 27263
 Main: (336)841-8888
 Billing: (336)821-1209

www.myfox8.com

Billing Address:

First United Meth Church
 Attention: Pat Church
 512 N Main St
 High Point, NC 27260

Send Payment To:

WGHP
 P.O. Box 534701
 Atlanta, GA 30353-4701

Invoice #	Invoice Date	Invoice Month	Invoice Period
467886-7	04/29/12	April 2012	03/26/12 - 04/29/12

Station	Account Executive	Sales Office	Sales Region
WGHP	Cindy Mackie	High Point	Local

Advertiser	Product	Estimate Number
First United Meth Church	PAID Programming Annual	October 2011 - Sept

Flight Dates	Order #	Alt Order #
10/02/11 - 09/30/12	467886	

Billing Calendar	Billing Type
Broadcast	Cash

Special Handling

IDB #	Advertiser Code	Product Code

Agency Ref	Advertiser Ref

Line	Start Date	End Date	Description	Start/End Time	MTWTFSS	Length	Spots/Week	Rate	Type																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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Per week

Total Spots 5 **Net Total** \$3,500.00

Payment Terms 30 Days

**Information about Cost of Close-Captioning
for First United Methodist's Worship Broadcast:**

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)**Subject:** RE: close captioning for worship service**From:** Alan Kirby <alan@allpromedia.com>**Date:** Wed, May 09, 2012 3:30 pm**To:** "pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org" <pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org>**Cc:** "franklin.josey@volvo.com" <franklin.josey@volvo.com>

Chris,

Here is the process we would be looking at. We would probably want Franklin to export his final version to AVI (rather than DVD) and send us that file on a thumb drive or SDHC card. We will send a .wav file to the transcriptionist who will return a text file to us. We will then caption the program creating a Betacam SP master that we will ship to the station. Initially we may need up to 2 weeks, but will try to reduce to 1 week once we get the system flowing. We will return your media (thumb drive, etc) once per month.

Transcription service	\$90
Captioning with Betacam Master	\$240
Shipping	\$10
Total per show	\$350.00

After the first 4 weeks I will reevaluate the pricing and see if we can reduce the cost at that time. Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

Alan Kirby
All Pro Media, Inc.

Phone 336-229-7700

Fax 336-229-7778

Email alan@allpromedia.com**From:** pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org [mailto:pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org]**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2012 5:13 PM**To:** Alan Kirby**Subject:** [FWD: RE: [FWD: RE: close captioning for worship service]]

Alan,

Here is additional information from Franklin Josey, the 'captain' or leader of the editing crew for the church's broadcasts. His information is more ACCURATE than the lowly preacher's so this should answer your questions. His reference to Fran is that Pastor Fran does not typically have a full sermon manuscript as I do. She preaches every five weeks or so...Hope this helps!

Chris Fitzgerald

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: [FWD: RE: close captioning for worship service]**From:** Josey Franklin <franklin.josey@volvo.com>**Date:** Wed, May 09, 2012 9:58 am**To:** "pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org" <pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org>

Cc: george beaston <gladduo2@triad.rr.com>

Chris,

You made a pretty good description of what the typical program contains and also that there is "typically" a script for the sermon.

That is assuming it is your sermon. I don't recall having a script for any of Fran's sermons.

My additional info / comments:

- We record the raw video / audio files onto a portable hard drive recorder in .avi format
- We post-process edit with Adobe Premiere Elements ver 8, running on a Windows environment
- We deliver the final version to the TV station as a DVD
- We are in SD 4:3

Franklin

From: pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org [mailto:pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org]

Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 9:32 AM

To: Josey Franklin

Cc: george beaston

Subject: [FWD: RE: close captioning for worship service]

Fraklin...

HELP...! Before I can get a bid to submit with the "exemption request" I have to answer questions that I don't know the answer to! Any info would be APPRECIATED.

Thanks!~

Chris

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: close captioning for worship service

From: Alan Kirby <alan@allpromedia.com>

Date: Tue, May 08, 2012 8:57 am

To: "pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org" <pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org>

Chris,

Two key items still needed: Do you know what software and system (Mac or PC) is used for editing?

What physical format do you send to the station? DVD, Betacam, Digital file, etc.

Alan Kirby
All Pro Media, Inc.

Phone 336-229-7700

Fax 336-229-7778

Email alan@allpromedia.com

From: pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org [mailto:pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Alan Kirby
Subject: RE: close captioning for worship service

Alan,

Just getting ready to head out to prepare for a funeral but wanted to respond...To answer your questions:

The volunteers take the one hour worship service and edit out the various portions to fill the 30 minute time slot (Usually the scripture, sermon and either a prayer and anthem or a hymn or children's time depending on the length of each element.) Since these vary from week to week the editors time the hymns, anthem, scripture, sermon etc. and then decide what they can fit together. They try to produce an abbreviated worship experience with a message, some music, and stay within the time frame. There is a script for the sermon (i.e. a manuscript) but there are 'departures' from the manuscript and the other elements are not 'scripted'. Thus, we would need a 'transcription' of all elements in the broadcast--anthems, or hymn, children sermon, etc.--if used.

The broadcast is in SD 16:9--I think...

Hope this information helps. We look forward to hearing from you...

Thanks,
Chris Fitzgerald

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: close captioning for worship service
From: Alan Kirby <alan@allpromedia.com>
Date: Fri, May 04, 2012 10:15 am
To: "pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org" <pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org>
Cc: Davis Beaston <dbeaston@bkhomefurniture.com>, george beaston <gladduo2@triad.rr.com>

Chris,

I have finished one meeting today, and leaving for another soon this afternoon so it will be early next week before we can discuss. Meanwhile, it would be helpful to have some information from you.

What do you edit on and how you provide the program to the station currently?

Is the show in SD or HD? 16:9 or 4:3?

Would you be providing a complete transcript of the program or looking to your vendor to provide that as well?

Thanks,

Alan Kirby
All Pro Media, Inc.

Phone 336-229-7700
Fax 336-229-7778
Email alan@allpromedia.com

From: pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org [mailto:pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 10:55 AM
To: Alan Kirby
Cc: Davis Beaston; george beaston
Subject: close captioning for worship service

Dear Mr. Kirby,

I am the senior pastor at First United Methodist Church in High Point, NC. An edited (30 minute) broadcast of our weekly worship service currently airs on Fox-8 (WGHP) each SUNDAY morning from 7 AM to 7:30 AM. Editing for this broadcast is done "in house" by volunteers who spend about two hours each week in the process. As you well know the FCC is requiring all programming to be close captioned or to secure approved exemption. Would it be possible to secure a quote for close-captioning and the time frame necessary for close captioning? Obviously we delay broadcast by one week. Would we be looking at additional time prior to broadcast? Thank you for your time and effort in this regard. You may contact me via email, by phone (336) 889-4429 or (cell 336-409-1148) or by mail at : First United Methodist Church

512 N. Main Street
High Point, NC 27260

Again, thank you!
Rev. CHris Fitzgerald

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8321 East 61st Street, Suite 100
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133

Pastor Chris Fitzgerald
First United Methodist Church
512 North Main Street
High Point, NC 27260

as per
(Michael Parnham) 120# time coding -
Con 5/30/2012 Next day air -
[4# / caption minutes

RE: Closed Captioning Sponsorship
ENCLOSURES

Dear Chris,

Recently I sent you a letter regarding closed captioning your television programs. I wanted to follow up on your ministries changing needs and because the requirements are ever evolving. Few understand the great sacrifice and expense that your ministry has endured to develop a successful gospel program. As a Christian businessman, I would like to remind you of a few points to consider when weighing the cost versus the benefits of captioning your program:

1. Since captioning provides you with a minimum 10% increase in audience, it is a good investment for a growing television ministry. Remember, captioning is not just for the deaf; a great number of people are getting older each year, becoming hearing impaired and enjoying the aid of captioning.
2. Special fundraising to caption your program is another option to consider. If you look at your donor base, you might see your best donors are older people who would be willing to contribute for the benefit of such a service. Appealing to them to fund a service that they use regularly is a perfect way to raise money for a program.
3. The most popular option, that even the big network shows use, is to partner with a sponsor to provide for the cost of captioning. Sponsors pay the cost of captioning in return for advertisement benefits. Enclosed is a one sheet explaining the many benefits of attaining a sponsor and more importantly the benefits to the sponsor.

Once you have acquired a sponsor then you only need to find a cost effective closed captioning service like New Day Media to get the programs captioned. We have found that many ministries who try to do the process in-house never get it off the ground. Usually the church either does not have the expertise in-house to do captioning or they are relying of volunteers who quickly get tired of the process. Besides why invest the thousands of dollars necessary in equipment and difficult training when you can outsource the service to professionals? My company, New Day Media, has a professional closed captioning department that provides exceptional television captioning with a very fast 48 hour turn around. Additionally, New Day Media also helps ministries in other areas of media. If you want to discuss any of your options please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Gary Murphy

Handwritten calculations:

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ - 29 \\ \hline 16 \\ 35 \\ \hline 151 \\ - 151 \\ \hline 0 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 151 \\ 52 \\ \hline 302 \\ 755 \\ \hline 7852 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 140 \\ 52 \\ \hline 280 \\ 700 \\ \hline 7280 \end{array}$$

CC
es captioning

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wGallant@CCmaker.com • www.CCmaker.com • 1-800-527-0551

FCC Closed-Captioning “Exemption Rule” Changed

You have options:

1. The least expensive way is to supply the TV station with a CCed DVD. We create a ‘caption file’ you add to the DVD; Apple DVD StudioPro/Encore. Cost is \$100/per half-hour weekly program; process done via the Internet.
2. We sell a turnkey closed-captioning system; cost of hardware/software is \$2000. Designed to be easy to use and creates a CCed BetaSP tape. 30-day money back guarantee. System is called AddRollupCC.
3. You can send us a DVD or miniDV/BetaSP tape, we create a CCed BetaSp and forward it to the TV station. Cost is \$150/per half-hour weekly program.

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)

Subject: RE: [FWD: Closed Captioning]

From: Josey Franklin <franklin.josey@volvo.com>

Date: Thu, May 17, 2012 9:38 am

To: "fgibhardt@fumc-highpoint.org" <fgibhardt@fumc-highpoint.org>, Mark Pierce

<dbdinvest@northstate.net>, Davis Beaston <dbeaston@bkhomefurniture.com>, George & Dotty Beaston <gladduo2@triad.rr.com>, Bill Harris <billharris1@northstate.net>

Cc: Chris Fitzgerald <pastorchris@fumc-highpoint.org>

Attach: image001.jpg

All,

I talked with Pastor Chris about this last night and have looked into it further today.

THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER...

Basically this small piece of hardware and software just produces the roll-up text line super-imposed on the video.

It requires that someone transcribes the service into a digital file format.

The editing station operator has to take that transcription digital file and add it to the video edit, aligning and syncing it with the video footage, etc...

Then this little system puts the text file data onto the video file in the roll-up closed caption format.

So someone still has to transcribe the service into text file and add that data to the video file, sync the edit, etc....

So this is only a small piece of the puzzle... Not a Silver Bullet...

Franklin

From: fgibhardt@fumc-highpoint.org [mailto:fgibhardt@fumc-highpoint.org]

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9:18 AM

To: Mark Pierce; Davis Beaston; Josey Franklin; George & Dotty Beaston; Bill Harris

Cc: Chris Fitzgerald

Subject: [FWD: Closed Captioning]

Chris wanted you all to see this attachment - he didn't know if this is a possibility.

Fran Gibhardt

office: 336.889.4429, ext. 225

email: fgibhardt@fumc-highpoint.org

**Verification of Assistance Sought for
Close-Captioning:**

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

GRANT APPLICATION - 2007
For Ministries or Programs
(Application must be received by the UM Foundation by February 1, 2007)

THE ROYCE AND JANE REYNOLDS FUND
Of the
United Methodist Foundation of WNC, Inc.

Applicant: Church or Agency First United Methodist Church, High Point

Name or Title of ministry for which funds are requested:

Television Ministry of First UMC, High Point

Person Submitting

Application Rev. Chris Fitzgerald Date: December 14, 2006

Your position: senior pastor

Address: 512 North Main Street, High Point, NC 27260

Phone Number(s) where you may be reached: (o) 336-889-4429 (H) 887-1144 (c) 336-409-1148

1. Please give a brief overview of this ministry with background and history to date.
The Television Ministry of First UMC began in 1991 with the intent of broadcasting regular United Methodist worship services via WGHP-Fox 8. Two conditions, initially agreed upon, were (1) that support for this ministry not come from solicitation of funds over the broadcast, and (2) that no distraction come from the production... over
2. Please highlight activities related to this ministry during 2005. (Planning or implementing)
The Neilson Ratings tell us that we are reaching 8,000-12,000 each week, in an area from Mt. Airy to Southern Pines, and from Mooresville to Reidsville. To our knowledge this is the only United Methodist television presence in our part of the state. We continue to hear from home-bound viewers and those who have been "helped". The cost of air time continues to increase... Currently \$640/week.
3. What is the vision for this ministry? (Describe what is expected to be happening five years from now?)
To continue to reach the unchurched, and those not able to worship at a local church, with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Five years from now we hope to be reaching more people with the Gospel presented to the very best of our ability.
4. What are the plans to implement this vision?
We continually evaluate our broadcast and our worship, seeking ways to improve our presentation of the Gospel in worship.
5. How do you see this ministry helping to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples for Jesus Christ?
Jesus said to "proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16:15) and we are genuinely trying to reach non-Christians---inviting them to come to Christ, to reach Christians in hopes that we will become more fully devoted to following Jesus Christ.

6. Is this a: ___ New ministry; ___ Existing Ministry; X New program of an existing ministry. ___

7. What is your total budget for this ministry? 33,280 Total agency or church budget? 843,130 (television ministry is NOT part of this budget)
(Attach copies of both budgets) Television budget: \$640.00 x 52weeks=33,280

8. What amount are you requesting from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund?
Any help is appreciated....The \$5,000 last year was an incredible help, especially given the financial climate of High Point with plan closures, etc.
\$ 5,000

9. Has this ministry ever received a grant from the Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund?

Yes X No _____ We received \$5,000 in 2006

If so, when? 2006

How were the funds used? To purchase "air time" at \$640 per week (30 min. broadcast)

10. List other sources from which you are requesting, or receiving, funds for this ministry. (Please show amounts requested or received.) The ONLY other source of funding is from donations of individuals within this church family.

11. Please indicate the status of any pending requests.

12. How is the implementation of this ministry contingent upon funding approval from these sources? The ministry has been self-supporting since 1991. Financial climate makes this funding vital in terms of the continuation of this ministry. We continue to solicit support from new and existing members of the church family.
(This information will be required prior to funding any grants.)

13. Please describe approvals for this ministry you have received from the local church, district, Annual Conference, or other supporting agency. This ministry received the Holt McPherson Communications Award in 1992 from the conference.

14. Additional materials or brochures describing this ministry may be attached.

15. If funding is granted you will be expected to submit a follow-up report on the ways the grant helped you implement your vision. Do you agree? Absolutely!

Yes ✓ No _____



United Methodist Foundation of
Western North Carolina, Inc.

"Endowing Methodism throughout western North Carolina"

April 5, 2006

Reverend Christopher A. Fitzgerald
First United Methodist Church
512 North Main Street
High Point, North Carolina 27260

Dear Reverend Fitzgerald:

Enclosed is check 021911 in the amount of \$5,000.00 representing a grant award from **The Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund** for the year 2006. The initiative to provide funds for the television ministry of First United Methodist Church in High Point is to be commended.

We at the Foundation appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to Royce and Jane Reynolds Grant Committee. As always, if we can be of assistance to you, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Snipes".

Reverend David A. Snipes
President

Enclosure

CC: Reverend G. Howard Allred

DAS:dtk



April 7th, 2006

Rev. Dr. C. Harley Dickson
16305 Barcica Lane
Cornelius, NC 28031

Dear Dr. Dickson:

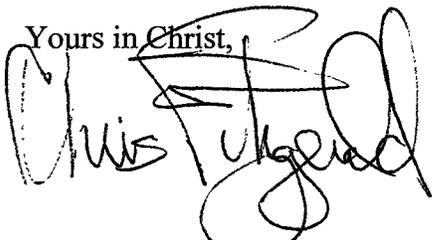
Thank you so much for the check for \$5,000.00 as a grant from The Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund in 2006. This helped to purchase "air time" for the broadcast of worship services from First United Methodist Church., which currently cost \$640 per week. A number of members of this congregation have funded, and continue to fund, this ministry which began in 1991.

The Neilson Ratings tells us that we are reaching 8,000-12,000 each week, in an area from Mt. Airy to Southern Pines, and from Mooresville to Reidsville. To our knowledge this is the only United Methodist voice in this half of our conference. The most rewarding part of this ministry has been to hear comments from viewers: an home-bound bone cancer patient here in High Point who cannot attend worship; a terminal patient from Baptist Hospital who called to say "this morning message was just for me"; a man who showed up for worship and said, "I saw the broadcast and wanted to come and worship here".

First United Methodist Church, as a traditional downtown congregation has had new challenges in recent years. The furniture and hosiery manufacturing industries have been adversely affected by "outsourcing" and "downsizing". This congregation continues to accept and pay all conference and district apportionments, but in recent years has struggled to accomplish this while supporting this additional ministry.

Your continued financial support in helping us carry the Gospel to Piedmont North Carolina would be greatly appreciated. We have a mandate from Jesus in Mark 16:15 to "proclaim the good news to the whole creation." Your help in the past has been greatly appreciated, and continued support would greatly assist as we seek to share Christ with every person we can.

Yours in Christ,



Chris Ferguson

**The Royce and Jane Reynolds Grant
Post Office Box 18005
Charlotte, North Carolina 28218**

March 15, 2007

Reverend Chris Fitzgerald
First United Methodist Church
512 North Main Street
High Point, North Carolina 27260

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your application for a grant for the television ministry of your church. Last year we were happy to be able to help in a small way, however we are unable to honor your request this year. Ordinarily we do not make grants that fund a budget for an on-going program.

If in the future your church has programs or ministries that seem to meet our guidelines, we will look forward to hearing from you again.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harley Dickson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

C. Harley Dickson
Chair, Grants Committee
Royce and Jane Reynolds Fund

Impact of Close-Captioning Requirement:

Mrs. Odell Craver
108 Windsor Drive
High Point, NC 27262

June 6, 2008

With a most humble and grateful heart, I thank those who have helped me during the most difficult time of my life. My Sunday morning 2-K service always has a needed message for me. Words are not adequate to express my feelings for God's love and support.

A special part of that caring support is through our church.

Thank God for my blessings. Thank Him for Chris, and Fran, and Bob, and Nan, I am learning every day.

Today my first great grandchild is being christened! I am so happy Bill and Stacy are doing this for him - and I shall do my best for him - (William Lindsay Kinnett II) I love him so!

Cornelia Craver

[Print](#) | [Close Window](#)

Subject: A faithful viewer

From: Teresa Hardister <tcwearsflops@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 04, 2011 6:14 pm

To: "pastorchrisc@fumc-highpoint.org" <pastorchrisc@fumc-highpoint.org>

Dear Pastor Fitzgerald,

I have been trying to compose an email to you for several months and I feel its time for me to write you. I felt led to share my story with you.

I lost my mother in July. She was my best friend, we had a love for each other that my words can not express.

She was injured in a car wreck in February of this year and as a complication in surgery she passed away.

Before her illness she watched you on Fox 8 faithfully, she had other health issues and she felt tuning in was as close as she could get to being in our home church. She was born and raised a United Methodist, and she remembered your father. I was born and raised in the Methodist church and my childhood has wonderful memories of Mama and our little church.

As my Mother grew sicker and weaker, she was unable to do much. She moved in with me, so I could better care for her, and even at 2 am, she would remind me that at 7 am your ministry would be on TV at 7 am sharp.

I sluggishly would go to the living room and she would have already beat me to the couch. She recited scriptures with you, she would chuckle at your jokes and many times she would shed tears during your sermon.

In the last weeks of her life, she watched more intently, she didn't move, she hung on your every word.

I think she knew she was near the end of her time here.

I remember in the middle of the night I heard her, and I slept very little, so the sound of her stirring woke me very quickly. I whispered into the dark, "Mama?" She was making her way to her old piano, I asked her quickly, "Mama, are you sure you are you need to be up?" She quickly told me she was just fine. She sat on her bench, and with her eyes closed she touched those keys for the last time. She played Victory in Jesus and then she played my favorite, # 64, Blessed Assurance. She turned, now looking at me through the faint light of my lamp in the room next to her and said "I played that for you baby, you will need it, now help me back to bed please."

I thought maybe she was just restless and needed to find a release. 7 days later Mama was gone.

I have been struggling so much through her passing. Questioning my faith and God, something I never believed I would ever do. A couple of weeks ago I woke up at 6:30 on Sunday morning. I tried to fall back to sleep but in my mind I could hear Mom saying what she had said so many times before, "Come on Teresa, Good Ol Pastor Chris will be on soon." I kept trying to fight it and before long I was in my living room, Fox 8 turned on and awaiting your service to begin.

I cried through the whole broadcast, your message was about Saints, and it reached a part of my soul that I had shut down since losing Mom. I needed to thank you. I am still struggling, I still cry so much and I am trying to hard to rely on my raising and my faith to see me through but it has been so shaky. I feel like the Lord led me to you, to tune in that morning, and also to tell you how much you touched me and my Mother.

Please keep me in your prayers, and thank you so much for your ministry, it touches more people than you know.

Teresa Hardister