

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BREVARD

## *Administrative Board Meeting*

October 14, 2008

**Attendance:** A register of attendance was passed and has been taken by the Center for Dialogue; they will return it after completing a database for mailing of these proceedings.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was convened at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship hall at the church by Charles Gilmore, Chair of the Administrative Board. This meeting was called to hear from any member of the congregation wishing to speak on the single item agenda of problems with sound in the sanctuary. The meeting was an open meeting; no issues were raised to be voted on at this meeting. The comments from speakers at this meeting will be considered by the Administrative Board in their deliberations regarding the sound issues in the sanctuary. The Center for Dialogue has been asked to facilitate this meeting as objective moderators, to record the comments that are made, and in assessing those comments to make suggestions about possible areas of consensus.

**Scripture and Prayer:** Pastor Mike Jordan read from 1Corinthians 12:12-26. He asked for prayers for Marilyn and Bob Tuttle, George Hargreaves, and Mary Rabb prior to praying.

**Song:** Charles Gilmore asked that Pastor Kerry Purselle lead those attending in the song, "Father, I Adore You."

**History and Current Status:** A slide presentation was led by Charles Gilmore regarding the history of changes in the sanctuary and the sound system that have led up to the deliberations currently occurring. This history is a factual history and the document is available at the church. A question was asked after this presentation regarding the stated concerns of people. Mr. Gilmore recommended reading the documents currently posted on the FUMC website, [www.brevardfumc.org](http://www.brevardfumc.org), for an understanding of the stated concerns. These documents can also be obtained in hard copy from the church.

**Center for Dialogue:** Charles Gilmore introduced Susan Miller and Michael Abraham from this organization. Susan Miller explained that the purpose of their presence was to help the group have a conversation, to express how they are thinking and feeling about this issue. She made two disclosures that she felt the group needed to know; first that there are some members of FUMC who are mediators for the Center for Dialogue, none of these people are involved in this mediation, second, she is a lifelong Methodist and daughter of a Methodist minister. There were no objections. Michael had no disclosures. Susan asked that all attending sign in so that the minutes and the discussion could be mailed to all present.

### **Ground Rules:**

1. This conversation is for members of FUMC. There was a request that the organ tuner, who had traveled from Hendersonville, be allowed to speak. There was a request from a non-member who attends and sings in the choir to speak. The group agreed to these requests.
2. A time frame of 2 hours was suggested and agreed to with the understanding that there would be flexibility in this if necessary.
3. Keep a mindset of "listen to learn." A comment was made that there should be an opportunity to respond to the slide presentation and assurance was given that there would be time for discussion.
4. Keep a sense of humor.
5. Help the moderators to focus and stay on track.
6. The group decided on a two minute time limit for speakers with some latitude being allowed.

Michael Abraham wrapped up by stating that speaking should be a reflection of helping the community to move forward. He asked several questions for the group to consider silently.

1. Who is the music intended for?
2. Are the goals of the church being met if things cannot be heard?
3. Is conflict being handled according to Christian tenets?
4. Does conflict resolution provide a model of our values and how we find commonality?
5. Is conflict a source of harm to the community?

**Discussion:** All discussion was recorded by the moderators and will be included with these minutes by the Center for Dialogue.

**Summary:** Susan Miller reflected that the discussion is a call for action and compromise; finding a common ground. She pointed out that a lot of work has already been done and asked for the group to consider possibly visiting other churches that have had work done by the engineers who have made a proposal to FUMC to hear the quality of their acoustics. There was some negative response to this suggestion. She restated the purpose of the meeting was to listen and hear each other with the goal of providing possible direction for further action. She complimented the group on their sense of humor and staying focused even though the two hour time limit was exceeded. The administrative board is charged to proceed from here. Michael Abraham reminded the group that the focus is the church and getting the Word out. Respect will help the process move forward. He thanked everyone for their comments.

**Next Steps:**

1. Put together the information for the congregation and for the website.
2. Find consensus.
3. The Administrative Board will proceed with deliberations and come to a conclusion.

(An offer was made by PostNet to print up the material to defray the cost to the church.)

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Mike Jordan offered a closing prayer.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diann Harle