

85 Cumberland St., Apt. 1
Charleston, S. C. 29401
August 31, 1979

Mr. Randolph R. Few, Chairman
Administrative Board
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
504 W. Chapel Hill St.
Durham, N. C. 27701

Dear Mr. Few and Members of the Board:

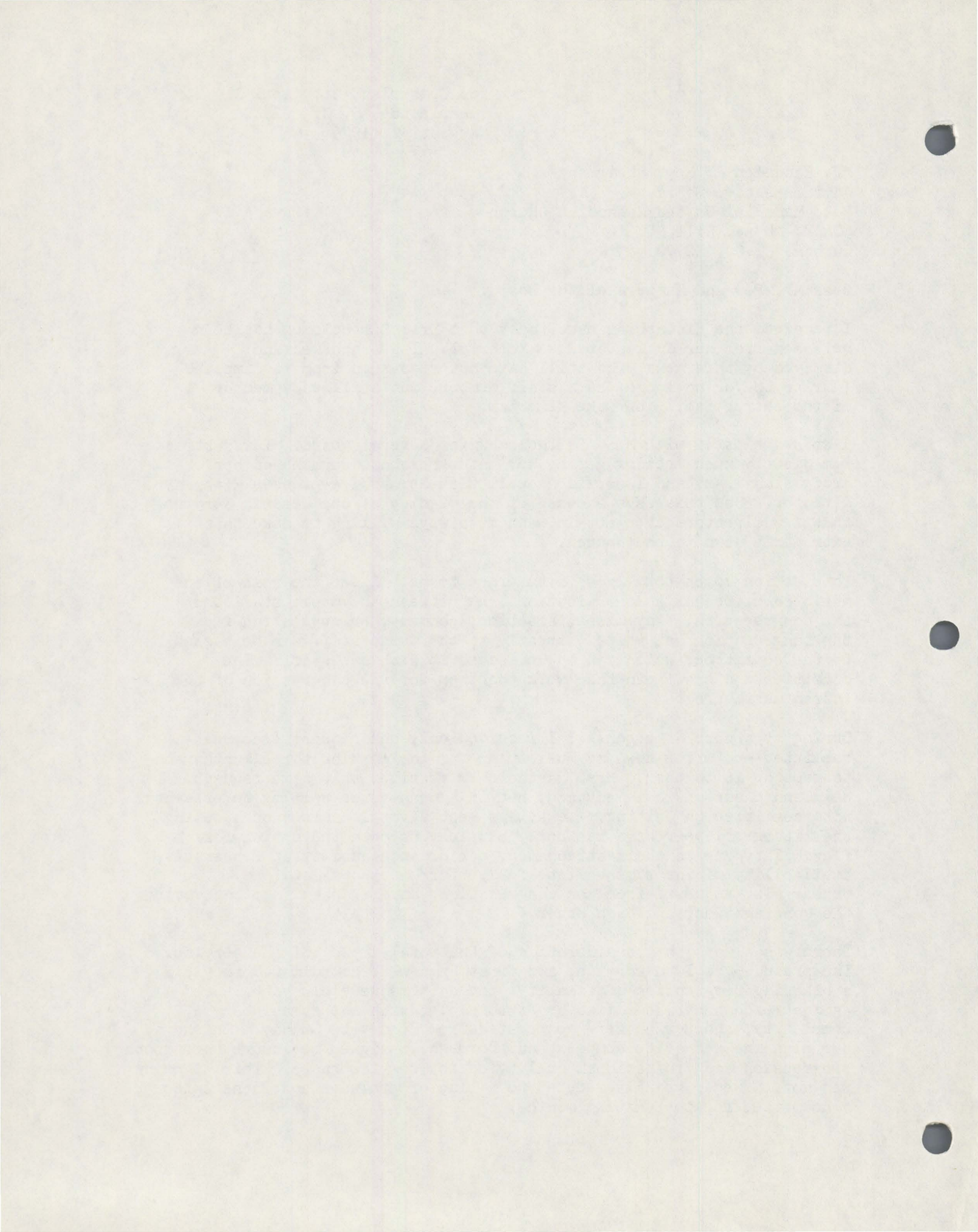
I received the disturbing news today that Mrs. Bartholomew has been released from her duties at Duke Memorial. I was shocked and dismayed by this news, and still have not recovered from its impact. I write to you no longer as a staff member, but still as a member of the church family of Duke Memorial.

I worked closely with Mrs. Bartholomew for several years. I was struck immediately upon meeting her by her inter-personal warmth and her professionalism, and I worked as well with her as I ever have with any director. She possesses a sense of the dignity of the worship service that few directors ever attain, and is always willing to make that extra trip down to the church.

This action comes totally as a surprise to me. I see the role of the music committee as a communication link between the music staff and the congregation. Any dissatisfaction, comment, or suggestion from the congregation not voiced directly to the music staff can be passed to the committee, which can then discuss it with the staff. The committee and staff can thus work together for the progression of the church music program.

During my tenure as organist, I received only one request from that committee--to write down my music plan for the ensuing three months and to present it to them. Mrs. Bartholomew received that same request. We planned our music in advance, but in a manner too complex to present to a committee in writing. We always kept several courses open, using the liturgical year as a backbone, but leaving open the option for flexibility due to choir attendance, performance quality at rehearsals, availability of instrumentalists for performances and Saturday rehearsals, requests from the congregation, and feedback from the choir, the congregation, and each other.

There was always the consideration of the total impact of the service. The prelude, call to worship, and first hymn were coordinated to yield a pleasing progression of tonality; the anthems were always balanced against each other, and insofar as possible, with the hymns. Style, complexity, and period were contrasted from Sunday to Sunday. In short, our planning was quite complex and thorough, designed to insure the smooth progression and professional quality of the service music. This planning was not, however, easily reduced to a list of preludes and anthems for a committee for the ensuing months.



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I do not mean to overemphasize the "behind-the-scenes" description, but it is this aspect of Mrs. Bartholomew's work with which you may not be familiar. Her concern for choir members and others was also prominent and widely recognized. The rehearsal was never too busy for her to take note of who was missing, and the week was never too busy for a call or note to that person.

The committee's view of itself may very well be different from mine. However I should think that no matter what its view this committee would realize that along with the power of supervision comes both the responsibility of supervision and responsibility to the church. Responsible supervision implies interaction, the expression of satisfaction and dissatisfaction, and the chance for improvement. I do not think the music committee ever initiated such a relationship with either the music staff or the church at large.

I now feel geographically distant from Duke Memorial, but emotionally still feel very close, for during my time there I developed close friendships with many of you which I shall always treasure. I feel a tremendous sense of sorrow and loss that our church has lost Mrs. Bartholomew.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas B. Clark III

cc: Dr. Edward Hammond
Mrs. Edith Toms

