

February 17, 1976

Bishop Robert Blackburn
Methodist Building
1307 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Bishop Blackburn:

This is to advise you that the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church met on February 16, 1976, and unanimously agreed to request that both The Rev. Edward Smith and The Rev. Robert Wallace be re-appointed for another year.

The Committee agreed that the past nine months have been good ones for the church and that we are blessed with the best combined staff we have ever had. We are grateful to you for giving us such fine men as Ed and Bob and want you to know that they both are doing an outstanding job in their Christian ministry - both as individuals and as a team. We do not want to lose them and trust that you will re-appoint them to Duke Memorial.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Mrs. Randolph R. Few
Chairperson
Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

SDF/ns

cc. The Rev. H. Langill Watson, District Superintendent
The Rev. Edward Smith, Pastor, DUMC
The Rev. Robert Wallace, Associate Pastor, DUMC
Mrs. Eunice Mattox, Secretary, Administrative Board, DUMC

This proposal comes from a meeting of the chairman of the worship commission, Lee Ona Phillips; chairman of education, Ella Glasson; children's co-ordinator Martha Crenshaw; Margaret Anne Biddle and pastor Edward F. Smith plus Bob Wallace. The area concerned is enrichment of worship and development of structure and activities to make worship more meaningful for children in the 6 - 9 year age range (grades 1 - 4 in school). Under six, there is a carefully planned and structured activity. At ten, the acolyte program offers some personal involvement to children and speedily they are into UMYF and youth choir.

The proposal is to offer on an experimental six months basis an alternate to the last half of morning worship service for children in the stated age range. This is not to be offered as an imperative but as an option. No one is required to participate and no one is excluded who wishes to be involved. At the end of the second anthem or the second hymn, the adults leading the group will simply leave the sanctuary and the children going with them will make their exit at the same time. It is hoped that this option will (1) give more meaning to children of this age than a sermon directed primarily at adults gives; (2) allow parents a less tense situation in which to share in the morning service; (3) encourage parents of young children to share in the morning service in lieu of leaving following Sunday School.

Leadership will be provided, one month at a time, by young adult volunteer couples. They will take the children to an agreed upon place where a structured, meaningful service will be shared. This will include singing (both songs children know and songs which are to be used in coming Sundays in the sanctuary [for recognition and educational as well as participation value]), a bible story, some Bible memorizing work and whatever other activities will make this a valid worship service. This is not designed to be an amusement center, nor a recreational activity or a child-caring service. The intent is to offer to children worship action and activity at their most congenial level.

The planning is to be done by the director of Christian education, Mr. ~~or~~ Mrs. Gary Jeffrey and one of the pastors. Unless a better name emerges, we will call this "Junior Church". Toward the end of October, an evaluation will be undertaken as to the worthwhile nature of this activity. If approved by the Council on Ministries and Administrative Board, we would plan to implement this activity in May.

Ed. Morab accept this res. Ran for Sen. Council