



**First United Methodist Church
Of Bradley Beach**
319 La Reine Avenue, Bradley Beach, NJ 07720

June 28, 2018

Board of Trustees,
Ocean Grove Camp Meeting
54 Pitman Avenue
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756

Dear Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Board of Trustees,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.


We were surprised to receive a civil action complaint (Docket No.: C-89-18) brought by you, the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting against First Methodist Episcopal Church.

As trustees of the First United Methodist Church of Bradley Beach, formerly, First Methodist Episcopal Church, we have been working to create a vibrant worship space at the church site so that First UMC can again be a beacon in the community for vital ministry and worship. If you have concerns about our direction or feel that you can contribute to the future of the church, we invite you to engage us in conversation. Scripture calls us to resolve conflict first through conversation between the people concerned. If that does not work, go through the church and only then should we go to the law. We invite you to disengage from this suit and to follow the process outlined in Matthew 18.

The civil action complaint you have filed will require spending your and our resources in the courts. It will likely also result in publicity that would hurt our mutual mission and our individual mission. We are called to spend these resources in mission, making disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. I hope you will join us in our mission by discontinuing this court action and joining us in a conversation about the future of ministry in Bradley Beach.

Because the civil action complaint requires an Answer to be sent to the Court and to your attorney, by mid-July, we would like to hear from you by July 6, 2019. We have taken steps to secure legal representation and are fully prepared to defend our mission and ministry in the courts if necessary. However, we believe that as brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a better way. We are in prayer that you can set aside the lawsuit and meet together to resolve any differences.

In Christ,


Norm Cetuk Nicola Mulligan Trey Wince

First United Methodist Church of Bradley Beach Board of Trustees

"The purpose of the annual conference is to make disciples for Jesus Christ by equipping its local churches for ministry and by providing a connection for ministry beyond the local church, all to the glory of God"