

October 29, 2025

South End United Methodist Church
5042 Edmondson Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37211

RE: Reasonable Accommodation for LED Sign

To whom it may concern:

South End United Methodist Church has requested a reasonable accommodation for the property at 5042 Edmondson Pike, Nashville, Tennessee for an electronic message center for the church's use. The church states that it is essential to its religious mission to be able to communicate its ministries and worship times to the community in furtherance of its work. The church states that this property is suitable for such purposes and a substantial burden would be imposed if the church were not able to operate the electronic message center at this location.

The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000cc, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates a compelling governmental interest and that such regulation is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest.

The Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-1-407, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that impinges or curtails the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution.

Based upon the facts and law set forth above, I hereby grant the request for the reasonable accommodation to use the property located at 5042 Edmondson Pike in Nashville, Tennessee for the church's proposed electronic message center.

If you disagree with this accommodation, you may file an appeal with the Board of Zoning Appeals within 30 days of the date of this letter. Once 30 days after the date of this letter has elapsed, no appeal may be filed. To file an appeal, please email the Board of Zoning Appeals at bza@nashville.gov to request an "Item A Appeal" and reference the location stated in the letter.

Sincerely,

Joel K. Hargis
Metropolitan Zoning Administrator