

Michelle Tonelli  
1109 M Street NW  
#1  
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment,

This letter is to lend my support to St. Thomas' request for a 6.7% zoning variance. As a member of the community and of the church, the variance will benefit both the community I live in and my worship community.

St. Thomas has enjoyed a long, positive history within DuPont and continues to carry on that mission today. St. Thomas does not just use its space for the benefit of the church. St. Thomas also permits several community meetings to take place each week in its buildings. However, the current building was never built for this type of use. We hope that through the new building we will better be able to serve our community. And with that new and improved space, the number of meetings, weddings, funerals, and other community outreach events will be able to increase. The idea of increasing our outreach to the community brings joy and excitement to the St. Thomas community.

Because St. Thomas has worked diligently to preserve the existing historic structures while building a new structure that will meet the needs of zoning requirements, it is proving extremely difficult to build a new building. The variance will assist St. Thomas in building a modern day building open to all. Additionally, St. Thomas is not requesting more space than it has historically enjoyed. The building that was burned down by arsonists in the 1970s was slightly greater than the variance we are now requesting. Thus, even with the variance, the building will still fit the look and feel of the community, especially when compared with some of the other large buildings in the direct vicinity of the church.

We have served the DuPont community faithfully since 1894 and cannot wait to begin this new chapter. The new building will bring a space that can be enjoyed by everyone in the community. I sincerely hope that you vote to support the variance and give St. Thomas a workable space that will feed the spiritual lives of the community as well as the day-to-day lives of the community.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Tonelli*