REV. DAVID E. MASSEY
*Pastor*

*Church Office*
(202) 387-3131

# Grace Reformed Church

## United Church of Christ

1405 FIFTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

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August 1, 2000

OF
DISTR

Board of Zoning Adjustment
*c/o* Mrs. Sheila Cross Reid, Chairperson
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210-S
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Application of St. Luke's Episcopal Church:
file numbers -16593 and 16594

Dear Mrs. Reid:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong support for the application of St. Luke's Episcopal Church for use of their lots for parking for the church and residents of the community. I believe having use of the parking lots will not create problems for the surrounding community nor have any detrimental impact on the immediate neighbors. When the lots are being used for community organizations it would be with the stipulation that the organizations will monitor the lots, as would the church, for proper use during their time period. It is well known that parking within Ward 2 has been and continues to be a serious problem.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church has assured the community they will be responsible for maintaining the lots in good condition: keeping them clean, maintaining the upkeep of the landscaping, monitoring its usage through their security system, working closely with groups requesting use of the lots and making necessary repairs on the lots. They worked diligently to and have corrected past problems involving the parking lots. The church has started meeting with representatives from the community and will continue to do so on a regular basis to address issues of concern. The Senior Warden, Ruby M. Van Croft, is the liaison person at the church for the community to call with their (1) comments, (2) questions and (3) concerns.

The church has been designated a historical site and has been part of the community for 125 years. Various community groups have use the church for meetings and services. These include but is not limited to: groups from African Countries, Caribbean Countries, peaceful protestors against the World Bank and LMF and two bridge groups from the community. They have an ongoing food bank along with distributions of baskets of food and clothing during the holidays. Their members have been increasingly more active with the AINC and community organizations over the years. The church and its parking lots are and will be an asset in the community.

I urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to favorably respond to St. Luke's Episcopal Church's application.

**BZA**
Case No. 16594
Exhibit No. 26

Sincerely,

Rev. David E. Massey

Rev. David E. Massey

DEM:rlc
cc: Ms. Ruby M. Van Croft, Senior Warden, St. Luke's Episcopal Church.



Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16594
EXHIBIT NO.26