

ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING

TIME AND PLACE: November 24, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

Via WebEx: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/ZC23-08A> (to participate & watch)

Via Telephone: 1-650-479-3208 **Access code:** 2316 569 2732 (audio participation & listen)

Via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/DCOfficeofZoning> (to watch)

Instructions: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/release/virtual-public-hearings>

Witness Sign Up: <https://dcoz.dc.gov/service/sign-testify>

FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING THE FOLLOWING:

CASE NO. 23-08A (The Wesley Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church – Further Processing of Campus Plan & Area Variance Relief @ Square 1600, Lots 6-9 (4500 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.)

THIS CASE IS OF INTEREST TO ANC(s) 3D & 3E

Oral and Written Testimony

- All who wish to testify in this case are **strongly encouraged** to sign up to do so **at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing** on OZ's website indicated above. Also, see below: *How to participate as a witness – oral statements*. **On the day of the hearing – by 3:00 p.m.**, call 202-727-0789 to sign up to testify.
- All written comments and/or testimony **must be submitted to the record at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing** – see below: *How to participate as a witness – written statements*.

The Wesley Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church (the “Applicant”) filed an application on August 8, 2025, requesting the Zoning Commission (“Commission”) to approve an application for further processing of an approved Campus Plan (Z.C. Case No. 23-08(1)) and related area variance relief for construction of new university housing (“University Housing Building”) and related campus and public space improvements (the “Application”) pursuant to Subtitle X, Chapter 1 and Subtitle Z § 302 of the Zoning Regulations (Title 11 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, “Zoning Regulations of 2016,” to which all subsequent references herein are made unless otherwise specified) for the property known as Lots 6 (818 and 819), 7, 8, and 9 in Square 1600 (the “Property”). The Property is within the boundaries of ANC 3E07 and 3E08 and adjacent to ANC 3D02.

The Property is located in the RA-1 zone bounded by University Avenue, N.W., Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., and the existing American University campus. The 8.78-acre Campus is currently improved with academic and administrative uses, a chapel, three student residential buildings and a surface parking lot. The Property is predominantly surrounded by R-1-B and RA-1 zoning.

The Applicant proposes the further processing of the approved 2025 Campus Plan to construct a new University Housing Building consisting of approximately 282,061 square feet with a total of no more than 659 beds; the building will be seven stories with a height of 74 feet, 8 inches and will have two levels of underground parking with approximately 264 parking spaces and internal loading and trash facilities. In conjunction, the Applicant requests to raze two 1960 – era

This hearing is governed by the Open Meetings Act. A portion of this hearing may be closed according to the Act.

Please address any questions or complaints arising under this hearing to the Office of Open Government **ZONING COMMISSION**
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 23-08A
EXHIBIT NO. 5
opengovoffice@dc.gov

dormitories (Straughn Hall and Carroll Hall) with 90 beds along with the Old President's House on University Avenue, and that area will be re-landscaped with a community playground. In addition, the existing surface parking lot (143 spaces) and adjacent one-story maintenance building will be razed. The other existing Wesley Seminary buildings, including Kresge Hall, Trott Administration Building, Library, Chapel and New Residence Hall will remain in place as the perimeter of the existing hilltop campus. The Applicant also requests an area variance, pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002.1, from the height requirements of Subtitle F § 203.3, which require the University Housing Building to setback 35 feet from all lot lines. The area variance would allow the University Housing Building to setback 27 feet at the southern lot line due to an irregular notch in the property boundary along a limited portion of the lot line. Further, as a condition of the further processing to construct a University Housing Building, the Applicant is required to provide off-site Inclusionary Zoning in Ward 3 in accordance with Subtitle C § 1006.10.

The public hearing will be conducted in accordance with the contested case provisions of the Zoning Regulations, Subtitle Z, Chapter 4.

How to participate as a witness – oral presentation

Interested persons or representatives of organizations may be heard at the virtual public hearing. All individuals, organizations, or associations wishing to testify in this case are **strongly encouraged to sign up to testify at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing** on OZ's website at <https://dcoz.dc.gov/> or by calling **Ella Ackerman at (202) 727-0789** in order to ensure the success of the new virtual public hearing procedures.

The Commission also requests that all witnesses prepare their testimony in writing, submit the written testimony prior to giving statements, and limit oral presentations to summaries of the most important points. The Commission must base its decision on the record before them. Therefore, **all written comments and/or testimony must be submitted to the record at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing**. The following maximum time limits for oral testimony shall be adhered to and no time may be ceded:

1.	Applicant and parties in support	60 minutes collectively
2.	Parties in opposition to	60 minutes collectively
3.	Organizations	5 minutes each
4.	Individuals	3 minutes each

Pursuant to Subtitle Z § 408.4, the Commission may increase or decrease the time allowed above, in which case, the presiding officer shall ensure reasonable balance in the allocation of time between proponents and opponents.

How to participate as a witness – written statements

Written statements, in lieu of personal appearances or oral presentation, may be submitted for inclusion in the record. The public is encouraged to submit written testimony through the Interactive Zoning Information System (IZIS) at <https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Login.aspx>; however, written statements may also be submitted by e-mail to zesubmissions@dc.gov. Please include the case number on your submission. If you are unable to use either of these means of submission, please contact **Ella Ackerman at (202) 727-0789** for further assistance.

How to participate as a party

Any person who desires to participate as a party in this case must so request and must comply with the provisions of Subtitle Z § 404.1.

A party has the right to cross-examine witnesses, to submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, to receive a copy of the written decision of the Commission, and to exercise the other rights of parties as specified in the Zoning Regulations. If you are still unsure of what it means to participate as a party and would like more information on this, please contact OZ at dcoz@dc.gov or at (202) 727-6311.

Except for an affected ANC, any person who desires to participate as a party in this case must clearly demonstrate that the person's interests would likely be more significantly, distinctly, or uniquely affected by the proposed zoning action than other persons in the general public. Persons seeking party status must comply with the provisions of Subtitle Z § 404. **Not less than 14 days prior to the date set for the hearing, or 14 days prior to a scheduled public meeting if seeking advanced party status consideration**, persons seeking party status **must submit, a Form 140 – Party Status Application, through the Interactive Zoning Information System (“[IZIS](#)”)**. This form may also be downloaded from OZ's website at: <https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Help/Forms.html>.

“Great weight” to written report of ANC

Subtitle Z § 406.2 provides that the written report of an affected ANC shall be given great weight if received at any time prior to the date of a Commission meeting to consider final action, including any continuation thereof on the application, and sets forth the information that the report must contain. Pursuant to Subtitle Z § 406.3, an ANC that wishes to participate in the hearing must file a written report at least seven days in advance of the public hearing and provide the name of the person who is authorized by the ANC to represent it at the hearing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ZONING AT (202) 727-6311.

ANTHONY J. HOOD, ROBERT E. MILLER, GWEN MARCUS WRIGHT, TAMMY STIDHAM, AND JOSEPH S. IMAMURA, ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, BY SARA A. BARDIN, DIRECTOR, AND BY SHARON S. SCHELLIN, SECRETARY TO THE ZONING COMMISSION.

Do you need assistance to participate? If you need special accommodations or need language assistance services (translation or interpretation), please contact Zee Hill at (202) 727-0312 or Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov five days in advance of the meeting. These services will be provided free of charge.

¿Necesita ayuda para participar? Si tiene necesidades especiales o si necesita servicios de ayuda en su idioma (de traducción o interpretación), por favor comuníquese con Zee Hill llamando al (202) 727-0312 o escribiendo a Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinco días antes de la sesión. Estos servicios serán proporcionados sin costo alguno.

Avez-vous besoin d'assistance pour pouvoir participer? Si vous avez besoin d'aménagements spéciaux ou d'une aide linguistique (traduction ou interprétation), veuillez contacter Zee Hill au (202) 727-0312 ou à Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov cinq jours avant la réunion. Ces services vous seront fournis gratuitement.

참여하시는데 도움이 필요하세요? 특별한 편의를 제공해 드려야 하거나, 언어 지원 서비스(번역 또는 통역)가 필요하시면, 회의 5일 전에 Zee Hill 씨께 (202) 727-0312 로 전화 하시거나 Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov 로 이메일을 주시기 바랍니다. 이와 같은 서비스는 무료로 제공됩니다.

您需要有人帮助参加活动吗？如果您需要特殊便利设施或语言协助服务（翻译或口译）· 请在见面之前提前五天与 Zee Hill 联系 · 电话号码 (202) 727-0312, 电子邮件 Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov 这些是免费提供的服务。

Quí vị có cần trợ giúp gì để tham gia không? Nếu quí vị cần thu xếp đặc biệt hoặc trợ giúp về ngôn ngữ (biên dịch hoặc thông dịch) xin vui lòng liên hệ với Zee Hill tại (202) 727-0312 hoặc Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov trước năm ngày. Các dịch vụ này hoàn toàn miễn phí.

አመስተኞች ዕርጅት የስራልማዊትና? የተለው እርጅት ከስራልማት ወይም የቋንቋ እርጅት አገልግሎቶች (ትራንስ ወይም ማስተረገም) ከስራልማት እስከዚ ከስጠበቅዎ አምስት ቁጥት በፈት ዘዴን በስልክ ቁጥር (202) 727-0312 ወይም በእኔና Zelalem.Hill@dc.gov ይገናኝ፡፡ እነዚህ አገልግሎቶች የሚሰጠት በነገር ነው፡፡