

**Salem Gospel Church**  
**607 Potters Avenue, Providence RI 02907**

**Presentation to the City of Providence Zoning Board of Review Meeting**  
**Held today February 2, 2022**

**Presenter:** Evang. Lolo Abraham-Jefferson

**Architect:** Mr. Martin Ezeama, Architect

**Senior Pastor:** Revd. Olusegun Martins

**RE: Application for Variance or Special Use Permit**

We are hereby requesting your consideration in granting this new application for a variance on the subject matter – 607 Potters Avenue Lots 592 and 629.

The reasons for our application for Variance and special use permit are as follows:

1. This application is a modification to the Resolution Number 9852 of the Zoning Board Review dated May 11, 2015.
2. After reviewing the building plan and its projected cost, we church decided to modify the plan to one that our budget can accommodate.
3. To keep the exiting church building with a plan to use it for our children activities on Sunday, our community outreach programs and facilities which will include a Food Pantry, a community closet for collection and, storage of clothing and other essentials all year round for the less opportune around us.
4. In addition to our community outreach efforts, we also plan to use the currently existing building for an After-school program for children in and around the neighborhood. The previous plan had no accommodation for this.
5. To build a new church Sanctuary without a basement, but with offices, meeting rooms, and more sanitary facilities to serve the needs of our growing congregation across the lifespan.
6. The new Sanctuary building will also allow us to ensure we meet the current new normal space distance requirement more adequately.

7. The new plan will also allow for more parking space accommodation for our growing congregation.
8. The existing structure and facilities have become grossly inadequate to accommodate the sanitary, offices, ministry rooms, and other needs of the parishioners. Our growing number of children need and deserve safe, secure, adequate space and facilities for their spiritual learning, growth, and other programs they may have outside of Sundays.
9. The proposed new building is crucial to our ongoing safe worship, growth, and outreach ministries activities. It is crucial to our continued existence in this community.

The church is appealing to the Board to allow it to expand at the present location so that it will continue to serve the needs of the neighborhood it has always served for many years. Lack of funds to purchase another land or building, time, and the very real possibility of losing most of the parishioners and kids due to lack of proximity will affect the church and parishioners negatively.

Thank you.

**Evangelist Lolo Abraham-Jefferson**  
**Presenter**