

A N E C U M E N I C A L C H U R C H

The Church of The Saviour

PRESIDENT: Marjory Zoet Bankson
TREASURER: Kate Lasso

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Washington DC

Dear Council President Friedson,

May 23, 2024

We are writing to urge you to direct the M-NCPPC Planning Board to remove the proposed Midcounty Highway Extended/M83 from the current Master Plan of Highways and Transitways Technical Update, and from all other master plans in which it appears.

The Church of the Saviour, which is made up of the seven churches listed below, owns the land at Dayspring in Germantown, Maryland. Dayspring was purchased more than 70 years ago as an ecumenical retreat center by The Church of the Saviour.

We have seen a sharp increase in guests and groups for both the silent retreat and conference center facilities since COVID-19. Dayspring is sacred ground for people of all faiths and spiritual paths who come to use Dayspring land as a place of meditation, contemplation, and renewal.

Building a highway through unbroken forest-land and wetlands would gravely destroy the purpose of our 200-acre property. New tree saplings could never replace these ancient, unblemished, mature wilderness areas.

The Church of the Saviour invites all visitors to engage the environmental issues of sustainable development with imagination, hope, and the courage to live a different way. Church members who live and work on the Dayspring property are specifically committed to the highest quality of life possible for the human community and all of creation surrounding us.

We ask the Montgomery County Council to act now to fully remove the proposed M83 Highway from the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways.

Sincerely yours,

Marjory Z. Bankson

Marjory Zoet Bankson
President The Church of the Saviour

cc: Bread of Life Church
Dayspring Church
Eighth Day Faith Community Festival Church
Festival Church

Jubilee Church
New Community Church
Seekers Church