



October 23, 2013

Russell Gage  
The Russell Gage Construction Corporation  
1321 Duke Street, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Gage,

As the Chairman of the Trustees for Washington Street United Methodist Church in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, I am proud to offer this letter of recommendation for the Russell Gage Construction Company. After many years of planning and with the sale of our Education Building, WSUMC was able to embark on a Two Phase Renovation Project that first involved separation of our historic sanctuary from the Education Building, construction of a new staircase to enter the sanctuary, and major improvements to the HVAC system. After lengthy interviews, WSUMC selected Maginnis + del Ninno Architects and the Russell Gage Construction Company for the design and construction. It was evident from their presentations that they had the best understanding of our requirements and a complete understanding of our tight budget, the unique construction constraints based on our preschool considerations, and most importantly the tight project schedule. After 6 months of hard work, Phase 1 is near completion, and I am pleased to say that we are on schedule and inside our original budget.

It is enough that our choice of Russell Gage Construction proved to be an excellent one, but I feel it necessary to comment on how they have consistently gone beyond their contract responsibilities in order to deliver a successful project. These include: 1- We have been extremely fortunate that Butch Okazaki was assigned as the superintendent. He brings extensive construction experience to the job, but more importantly is always considerate of the unique needs of our preschool and church office personnel. His management of the sub-contractors is first rate, and his attention to keeping the work site clean and orderly is greatly appreciated. 2- Their relationship with quality/budget sensitive sub-contractors has kept the job on schedule and on budget. Their positive relationship with the Alexandria inspectors and code enforcement folks has also been a plus. 3- Working with Russell Gage has also been a pleasure. He is always working for the best interest of the church and is our advocate with the architect and all the subs.

As a result of their fine work, WSUMC has engaged the Russell Gage Construction Company for Phase 2, and we look forward to the same level of expertise, commitment, and dedication that was delivered in Phase 1. I would expect any client that contracts with Russell Gage will get the same.

Regards,

John R. Thompson, Jr.  
Chairman of the Trustees  
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