



Date: May 22, 2026

Board of Zoning Adjustment
of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: BZA Application No. 21474 – Emory United Methodist Church
Letter of Support**

Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment:

I submit this letter to express the Congregation Action Network's strong support for the above-referenced application filed by Emory United Methodist Church seeking an area variance pursuant to Subtitle X § 1000.1 from the rear yard requirement of Subtitle F § 207.1 to allow for the adaptive reuse of a portion of the existing church building and the construction of an addition for an 87-unit multiple dwelling residential building on the property located at 1459 Columbia Road, NW.

We support the Church's efforts to redevelop the property that has remained vacant for many years. We believe the variance is appropriate because the proposed 87-unit multiple dwelling building will bring more housing to the neighborhood, including IZ+ units, and will contribute to the vibrancy and character of the neighborhood by preserving some of the prominent architectural features of the existing church building and bell tower. As an inclusive organization supporting immigrants in DC and the greater DMV, we strongly support inclusive housing.

For these reasons, we urge the Board of Zoning Adjustment to approve the Church's request area variance pursuant to Subtitle X § 1000.1 from the rear yard requirement of Subtitle F § 207.1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rev. Julio Hernández'.

Rev. Julio Hernández
Executive Director

1640 Columbia Road NW
Washington, DC 20009

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 21474
EXHIBIT NO. 19