

June 18, 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:

We submit this letter to express my 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.

This property is near and dear to CentroNia as it was our first "home". Forty years ago, CentroNia opened its first childcare center in the basement of the Calvary Church! The Church's commitment to our community was the foundation to where we are today, serving over 800 children at 6 centers, ages 0-5, from low-income, working families.

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.

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,



Name: Myrna Peralta
Title: CentroNia President & CEO