

Love.
Think.
Act.

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May 29, 2025

Zoning Commission of the District of Columbia
441 4th Street, NW, Ste. 200
Washington, DC 20001

Re: ZC Case No. 24-14 – Emory United Methodist Church (“Emory”) Letter of Support

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing in full support as The District Church of Emory’s request to rezone their property located at 1459 Columbia Road, NW from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

The District Church was founded in Columbia Heights in 2010 and is comprised of people from over 80 nations who worship with us each week just one block from the Calvary Project site, at the Columbia Heights Educational Campus (3101 16th St NW). We have founded many outreach ministries in the city, including **DC127**, which has supported over 800 families in foster care or at risk of entering foster care, and **Just Homes**, which helps churches leverage their land to build more affordable housing in the city.

Our church recently entered into an agreement with the historic **National Baptist Memorial Church** at 1501 Columbia Rd NW to restore their church building and create a state-of-the-art event and community outreach space for both of our churches. As a result, we will soon be literal neighbors to the Calvary Project site.

We are writing in full support of Emory's rezoning efforts, as doing so would significantly contribute to the affordable housing supply in the Columbia Heights neighborhood and enhance its vibrancy. For these reasons, we urge the Zoning Commission to approve Emory's request to rezone their property from the RA-2 zone to the RA-4 zone.

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We stand ready to serve these residents with their spiritual and physical needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Aaron Graham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Dr. Aaron Graham
Lead Pastor, The District Church
aaron@districtchurch.org
202-604-8981