

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
THE BRICMONT LAW FIRM
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

DENVER, COLORADO 80222

FACSIMILE

November 6, 2023

TO: Ministerial Search Committee

RE: Bridget A. McCann

Dear Committee Members:

When I learned that Bridget McCann was applying for your community's Senior Minister position, I immediately reached out to see if she would allow me to submit a letter of reference. I am writing today, respectfully, to whole-heartedly recommend that your committee select Bridget to lead your congregation in the years ahead.

By way of introduction, I am a mostly-retired Colorado lawyer who actively litigated for 33 years. I also owned an executive suite for lawyers called Franklin Street Legal Suites, located at 1763 Franklin Street in Denver, and that's how I first became acquainted with Bridget. She was a lawyer/tenant in my office mansion and, with several other lawyers, we shared that space for many years, from 2010 to 2019.

I know Bridget well. During the time we officed together, we frequently picked each other's brains, either during our communal conference-room lunches with the other lawyers in the suite, or during what we euphemistically called "hallway research." As a long-term office mate, Bridget was a most valued professional colleague. We also socialized frequently during those years, bicycled together (including over Vail Pass a couple times to attend an annual legal conference in the mountains). We have cooked together, attended concerts and conferences together, and sat around the campfire, sometimes having awesome conversations about religion and spirituality. I am a non-believer (raised Catholic), but have read a lot of religious philosophy, and Bridget has always engaged with me in a unique and respectful way, without judgment or proselytizing. I have very much enjoyed those conversations.

Bridget is a quality person, and the arc of her life has exemplified two recurring themes: **Selflessness** and **Service**. From her first career in the U.S. Navy, to serving as a federal wildlife manager, to her distinguished career as a licensed attorney, and now progressing forward to a higher level of service with her ministry work, Bridget has always made choices that are purposeful and consequential.

- As an 18 year-old, Bridget enlisted in the Navy, and served six years of active duty followed by eight years in the reserves. She worked on computer systems tracking Russian

submarines, all in dedicated service to our country. She discharged honorably in 1999, after having achieved a rank of E-6, First Class Petty Officer. Bridget will definitely be able to relate to any military or ex-military families in your community!

- As a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bridget led planning teams tasked with developing 15-year management plans for wildlife refugees. This involved working with local stakeholders, tribal and community officials, and the like. This experience, with responsibility for stewardship and as a guardian of nature, instilled a passion for the outdoors that continues to this day. *When we officed together, Bridget made it a point to take off most Fridays to go hiking!* She frequently participates in long-haul bike rides— in Colorado she has conquered The Triple ByPass ride (118 miles, 10,000 feet gain, in a single day), as well as the Copper Triangle (over Fremont, Tennessee and Vail Passes). She's also done RAGBRAI (Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa) multiple times, and most recently did "Bikes and Bourbon", a three-day, 210-mile ride last month in Kentucky.

- As an attorney, Bridget excelled in several practice areas: in Family Law— representing divorcing couples dealing with always contentious divisions of assets and debts, custody and children's issues, domestic violence and protective orders, and assisting many same-sex couples (when the law in that area was, especially in the early days, not clear or helpful); in Estate Planning— helping families with asset protection and end-of-life challenges; and in Immigration Law— representing indigent refugees and undocumented children from Central and South America in difficult, frequently heart-breaking, immigration situations. *In these cases her fluency in Spanish was a great benefit!* As she has informed the Courts of her decision to no longer practice law, multiple judges have commended Bridget on her esteemed service and expressed regret over her decision to leave the practice. That is high praise, indeed.

- And so, more recently, I've observed Bridget's developing journey into ministry, and the service and selflessness which that entails. We were still office mates when she made the decision to begin pursuing her Master's Degree in Consciousness Studies, recognizing that likely meant she would eventually have a monumental decision to leave the practice of law. I viewed this as a courageous move on her part, but she approached her course work with such vigor and enthusiasm, and with complete confidence that she was making the proper decision. Us life-long lawyers were in awe!

Bridget is also a skilled business person, with a management and leadership style that would benefit any large organization. Yes, she's a lawyer, and extremely accomplished in the secular world. She's started a law firm, and successfully operated it for more than 15 years. She knows how to review contracts, scrutinize financial statements, negotiate with vendors and mediate disputes among opposing parties. She is a persuasive writer and a superior oral communicator. And Bridget unflinchingly abides by the highest standards of integrity. Her ethics are impeccable.

And although I'm certain that legal counseling is very different from spiritual counseling, there are similarities that, to this lay person, just seem to be self-evident. From getting someone in a time of need or despair to trust you, to excellent listening skills, to triaging and prioritizing a

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person's issues and needs, to designing remedial strategies and then helping to execute toward a brighter tomorrow. In the end, the troubled soul (or client) has a future that's hopeful and satisfying. That's Bridget McCann.

Finally, I want you to know that Bridget is one of the most positive, joyful, uplifting, empathetic, easy-going people I have ever known. All of these traits will serve her well in the Senior Minister position. And you probably don't know that a few years ago Bridget took a 10-week course in stand-up comedy, and then performed her own material for 20 minutes in front of 200 people at the "graduation" ceremony. I was there that night and she was a riot!

In closing, I cannot imagine a better choice than Bridget McCann for the important position you are filling. By any objective standard, Bridget is a most impressive woman, with the background, skills, commitment and personality that will not only fulfill the day-to-day job description and overall mission of the church but will, most assuredly, enable the church to prosper and thrive in the years ahead!

If you would like to reach me for any reason, please call my cell, at (303) 947-6660. And thank you for this opportunity to contribute my perspective in support of this outstanding candidate.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Bricmont Jr.