

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2242 Disciplinary Docket No. 3
: :
Petitioner : No. 11 DB 2016
: :
v. : Attorney Registration No. 23199
: :
GEORGE B. DITTER, : (Montgomery County)
: :
Respondent :

ORDER

PER CURIAM

AND NOW, this 2nd day of October, 2017, upon consideration of the Recommendation of the Three-Member Panel of the Disciplinary Board, the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent is granted, and George B. Ditter is suspended on consent from the Bar of this Commonwealth for a period of five years, retroactive to February 12, 2016. He shall comply with all provisions of Pa.R.D.E. 217.

Respondent shall pay the costs incurred by the Disciplinary Board in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

A True Copy Patricia Nicola
As Of 10/2/2017

Attest: 
Chief Clerk
Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL,	:	No. 2242 Disciplinary Docket
	:	No. 3
Petitioner	:	
	:	No. 11 DB 2016
v.	:	
	:	Attorney Reg. No. 23199
GEORGE B. DITTER,	:	
Respondent	:	(Montgomery County)

JOINT PETITION IN SUPPORT
OF DISCIPLINE ON CONSENT
PURSUANT TO Pa.R.D.E. 215(d)

Petitioner, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel by Paul J. Killion, Chief Disciplinary Counsel, and Harold E. Ciampoli, Jr., Disciplinary Counsel, and Respondent, George B. Ditter (hereinafter, "Respondent"), through his attorney, James C. Schwartzman, Esquire, file this Joint Petition In Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement ("Pa.R.D.E.") 215(d), and respectfully represent:

1. Petitioner, whose principal office is situated at Pennsylvania Judicial Center, 601 Commonwealth Ave., Suite 2700, P.O. Box 62485, Harrisburg, PA 17106 is invested, pursuant to

Pa.R.D.E. 207, with the power and duty to investigate all matters involving alleged misconduct of an attorney admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to prosecute all disciplinary proceedings brought in accordance with the various provisions of the aforesaid Enforcement Rules.

2. Respondent was born on September 7, 1950, and was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth on October 26, 1976. His attorney registration number is 23199.

3. Respondent's public mailing address is 226 Hendrick Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074.

4. On January 20, 2016, Petitioner and Respondent filed with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania a Joint Petition to Temporarily Suspend an Attorney.

5. By Order dated February 12, 2016, the Supreme Court granted the Joint Petition and placed Respondent on temporary suspension.

6. Respondent is subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court.

SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS ADMITTED

7. In October 2015, a partner in Respondent's law firm contacted Montgomery County law enforcement authorities and reported that he believed an employee in his office was

possessing and acquiring child pornography through the use of a firm computer.

8. On October 6, 2015, Montgomery County Detectives executed a search warrant at Respondent's law firm and discovered on Respondent's computer three hundred thirty images of children under the age of eighteen involving lewd exhibition of the genitals or nudity for the purpose of sexual stimulation or gratification for any person who may view such depiction.

9. On November 3, 2015, Respondent appeared before Magisterial District Judge Robert M. Sobeck and waived his preliminary hearing in connection with the pending charges against him.

10. On January 6, 2016, an Information was filed in the Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County charging Respondent with ten counts of Sexual Abuse of Children (Possession of Child Pornography), 18 Pa.C.S.A. §6312(d), and one count of Criminal Use of a Communication Facility, Sexual Abuse of Children-Possession of Child Pornography, 18 Pa.C.S.A. §7512(a).

11. On November 4, 2016, Respondent entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Garrett D. Page, in the matter captioned: *Commonwealth v. George Bock Ditter*, Docket No. CP-46-CR-0008215-2015, Court of Common Pleas of Montgomery County.

12. Respondent entered into an open guilty plea to count

possessing and acquiring child pornography through the use of a firm computer.

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ten of the Information, sexual abuse of children, graded as a felony of the third degree.

13. The sentencing guidelines were calculated at three to twelve months. The Commonwealth agreed to ask for no more than three months incarceration at the time of sentencing.

14. Respondent's sentencing was deferred pending a Pre-Sentence Investigation and a Sexually Violent Predator Assessment to be completed by the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board.

15. The report of the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board concluded that Respondent did not qualify or meet the criteria to be classified as a sexually violent predator.

16. On March 20, 2017, Judge Page sentenced Respondent to intermediate punishment for a period of twenty-three months. The first three months were to be served under House Arrest, GPS monitoring. Respondent was also sentenced to probation for a period of five years, consecutive to parole. Respondent was fined \$1,000.00, ordered to perform seventy-two hours of community service and continue treatment with his Psychologist, Dean Dickson.

17. Mr. Dickson is a licensed psychologist and a member of the Sexual Offenders Assessment Board, Office of the Governor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He operates treatment groups for

convicted sexual offenders referred from five Southeastern Pennsylvania counties and the Board of Probation and Parole in Allentown. Since October/November of 2015, Mr. Dickson has seen Respondent in several individual sessions and in regular weekly group sex offender therapy sessions.

18. Mr. Dickson prepared a Sex Offender Evaluation/Risk Assessment dated December 15, 2016 that was introduced at Respondent's sentencing hearing. Mr. Dickson opined that Respondent was at very low risk to re-offend. Mr. Dickson also reported that the results of a sexual history polygraph administered to Respondent indicated that Respondent was not a pedophile and had no history of or sexual interest in children or prepubescents. Mr. Dickson also testified at Respondent's sentencing hearing that Respondent has been extremely helpful to other men in his treatment group. Mr. Dickson further testified that he believed Respondent had shown a great deal of change in the last year and a half and that Respondent has pledged to Mr. Dickson and to Respondent's therapy group that Respondent was committed to spending the rest of his life avoiding his addiction to pornography and helping others avoid it.

19. Respondent's conviction constitutes an independent basis for discipline, pursuant to Rule 203 (b) (1), Pa.R.D.E.

SPECIFIC RULE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND
RULE OF DISCIPLINARY ENFORCEMENT VIOLATED

Respondent violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement:

RPC 8.4(b), which states that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects; and

Pa.R.D.E. 203(b)(1), which states that conviction of a crime is a ground for discipline.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE

20. Petitioner and Respondent jointly recommend that the appropriate discipline for Respondent's admitted misconduct is a five-year suspension retroactive to the date Respondent was placed on temporary suspension.

21. Respondent hereby consents to that discipline being imposed upon him by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Attached to this Petition and marked Exhibit "A" is Respondent's executed Affidavit required by Rule Pa.R.D.E. 215(d), stating that he consents to the recommended discipline and including the mandatory acknowledgements contained in Rule 215(d)(1) through (4), Pa.R.D.E.

22. In support of Petitioner and Respondent's joint recommendation, it is respectfully submitted that the following mitigating circumstances are present:

- a) Respondent showed remorse and acceptance of responsibility by waiving his preliminary hearing and by pleading guilty to his crimes;
- b) Mr. Dickson's evaluation of Respondent indicates Respondent represents a low risk to re-offend in any sexual manner or by sexually acting out with a child;
- c) Respondent has positively responded to his therapy with Mr. Dickson, and Mr. Dickson believes Respondent has shown a great deal of change in the last year and a half.
- d) Respondent has admitted engaging in misconduct and violating the charged Rule of Professional Conduct and Rule of Disciplinary Enforcement;
- e) Respondent requested and agreed to be placed on temporary suspension as evidenced by his participation in the filing of a Joint Petition to Suspend;
- f) Respondent is remorseful for his misconduct and understands he should be disciplined, as is evidenced by his cooperation with Petitioner and his consent to receiving a five-year suspension;
- g) Respondent has no prior record of discipline;
- h) Attached as Exhibit "B" are seventeen letters submitted to Respondent's sentencing judge from members of Respondent's community attesting to his honesty, good character and remorse; and
- i) Respondent has no prior criminal history.

23. A suspension of five years is appropriate in light of the specific facts of this case and has been imposed in four

cases with similar fact patterns.

In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Robert Vincent Mitchell*, 73 DB 2009 (2012), Mitchell downloaded and viewed on his office computer approximately six hundred images depicting child pornography. The FBI executed a search warrant on Respondent's computer and recovered the images Mitchell had deleted. Mitchell pled guilty to one count of possession of child pornography and was sentenced to thirty months in prison followed by eight years of supervised release. At his disciplinary hearing, Mitchell presented compelling evidence of his efforts to seek treatment for the underlying psychological problems that ultimately led him to pornography. Mitchell's psychologist opined that Mitchell had a good prognosis, a low risk of recidivism and a high probability of readjusting to society. Mitchell also submitted letters from numerous character witnesses. Relying on the five-year suspensions imposed in *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Christie*, 639 A.2d 782 (Pa. 1994) and *Office of Disciplinary v. Andrew Malone*, No. 131 DB 2004 (2006), the Disciplinary Board recommended that Mitchell be suspended for five years and that his suspension be prospective because of his lengthy term of supervised release. The Supreme Court suspended Mitchell for five years retroactive to the date of his temporary suspension.

In *Christie, supra*, Christie invited two male minors, ages twelve and fourteen, to his apartment on separate occasions during a ten-day period. Christie provided the minors with alcoholic beverages, showed them x-rated video tapes, and masturbated in their presence. He did not have any sexual contact with the youths. He ultimately pled guilty to thirteen misdemeanor sex counts of sexual harassment, indecent exposure, endangering the welfare of a child and unlawfully dealing with a child. He was sentenced to five years of supervised adult probation. At his disciplinary proceeding, Christie presented expert testimony establishing that he suffered from a psychological disorder known as non-exclusive or regressed homosexual pedophilia, which caused him to be sexually attracted to both minor and adult males. The Disciplinary Board recommended that Christie be suspended for a period of three years and forty-five days. The Supreme Court imposed a five-year suspension, yet still found the following mitigating factors: Christie's criminal conduct was induced by the psychiatric disorder, lack of any prior disciplinary or criminal record, cooperation with authorities, remorse, apology to his victims, continued participation in therapy, and low risk for recidivist behavior.

In *Malone, supra*, Malone was arrested as a result of a sting operation conducted by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. An agent, posing as a mother of two girls aged seven and nine, made arrangements through the internet to meet Respondent ostensibly to engage in various sexual activities with the three females. Respondent appeared at the pre-arranged meeting location with Barbie dolls for the "children", a gift for the "mother", and sexual lubricant and condoms in his possession. Malone entered a plea of nolo contendere to the offense of criminal attempt to commit involuntary deviate sexual intercourse and was sentenced to twelve months less one day of imprisonment and a consecutive five-year term of probation. The Disciplinary Board found that Malone's psychologist's reports established *Braun* mitigation in that he suffered from Avoidant Personality Disorder, Sexual Addiction and Depression which were causally related to his misconduct. In recommending a five-year suspension, the Board also cited the mitigating factors of remorse and acceptance of responsibility, an unblemished record of practicing law for over thirty years, evidence of good character as attested to by longtime friends and colleagues and a positive record of community service. The Supreme Court concurred and suspended Malone for five years.

In *Office of Disciplinary Counsel v. Allan Christopher Smith*, No. 176 DB 2015 (2017), by Order dated May 12, 2017, the Supreme Court granted the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline and suspended Smith for a period of five years, retroactive to October 27, 2015. Smith had pled guilty to one hundred fifty counts of Possession of Child Pornography and was sentenced to county probation for a term of five years. Similar to Respondent herein, Smith showed remorse and acceptance of responsibility by waiving his preliminary hearing, pleading guilty to his crimes and requesting to be placed on temporary suspension. Additionally, Smith positively responded to psychiatric therapy and in the opinion of his evaluators, presented a low risk for recidivism or sexually acting out with a child.

24. Petitioner and Respondent submit that a five-year suspension, retroactive to the date of temporary suspension, February 12, 2016, is the appropriate resolution based upon the specific facts of this case and an analysis of prior cases involving similar criminal misconduct.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner and Respondent respectfully request that, pursuant to Pennsylvania Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement 215(e) and 215(g), a three-member panel of the Disciplinary Board review and approve the Joint Petition in Support of

Discipline on Consent and file a recommendation with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania that Respondent receive a five-year suspension, retroactive to February 12, 2016, and that Respondent be ordered to pay all necessary expenses incurred in the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

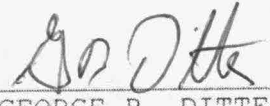
PAUL J. KILLION
Attorney Reg. No. 20955
Chief Disciplinary Counsel

Date: 8/28/17



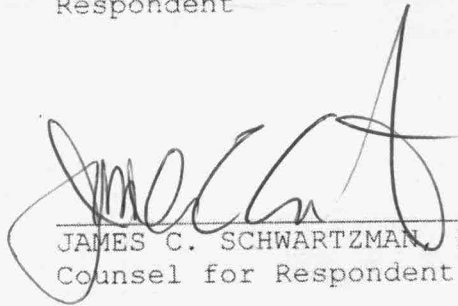
HAROLD E. CIAMPOLI, JR.
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Reg. No. 51159
820 Adams Avenue, Suite 170
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650-8210

Date: 8/16/2017



GEORGE B. DITTER
Respondent

Date: 8/24/2017



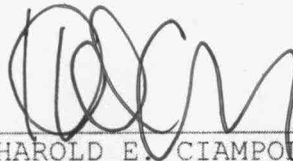
JAMES C. SCHWARTZMAN, ESQUIRE
Counsel for Respondent

VERIFICATION

The statements contained in the foregoing Joint Petition In Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief and are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

8/28/17

Date



HAROLD E. CIAMPOLI, JR.
Disciplinary Counsel

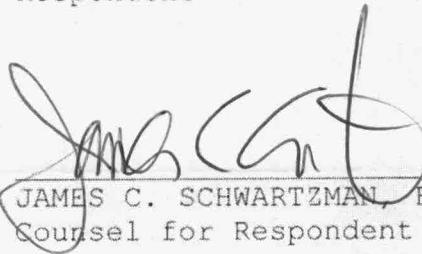
8/16/2017

Date



GEORGE B. DITTER
Respondent

Date: 8/24/2017



JAMES C. SCHWARTZMAN, ESQUIRE
Counsel for Respondent

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL, : No. 2242 Disciplinary Docket
: No. 3
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: No. 11 DB 2016
v. :
: Attorney Reg. No. 23199
GEORGE B. DITTER, :
Respondent : (Montgomery County)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am this day serving the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 204 Pa. Code §89.22 (relating to service by a participant).

First Class and Overnight Mail, as follows:

James C. Schwartzman, Esquire
Stevens & Lee PC
1818 Market Street, Floor 29
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3652
Counsel for Respondent

Dated:

8/29/17



HAROLD E. CIAMPOLI, JR.
Disciplinary Counsel
Attorney Reg. No. 51159
Office of Disciplinary Counsel
District II Office
Suite 170
820 Adams Avenue
Trooper, PA 19403
(610) 650-8210

BEFORE THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

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GEORGE B. DITTER, :
Respondent : (Montgomery County)

AFFIDAVIT

UNDER RULE 215(d), Pa.R.D.E.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY:

GEORGE B. DITTER, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and hereby submits this affidavit consenting to the recommendation of a five-year suspension, retroactive to February 12, 2016, in conformity with Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) and further states as follows:

1. He is an attorney admitted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having been admitted to the bar on or about October 26, 1976.

2. He desires to submit a Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d).

3. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered; he is not being subjected to coercion or duress, and he is fully aware of the implications of submitting this affidavit.

4. He is aware that there is presently pending a proceeding into allegations that he has been guilty of misconduct as set forth in the Joint Petition in Support of Discipline on

Consent Pursuant to Pa.R.D.E. 215(d) to which this affidavit is attached.

5. He acknowledges that the material facts set forth in the Joint Petition are true.

6. He submits the within affidavit because he knows that if charges predicated upon the matter under investigation were filed, or continued to be prosecuted in the pending proceeding, he could not successfully defend against them.

7. He acknowledges that he is fully aware of his right to consult and employ counsel to represent him in the instant proceeding. He ~~has~~ ^{has} not retained, consulted and acted upon the advice of counsel, in connection with his decision to execute the within Joint Petition.

It is understood that the statements made herein are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. §4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Signed this 21st day of August, 2017.



GEORGE B. DITTER

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 21st day
of August, 2017.


Notary Public

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
NOTARIAL SEAL
Anne E. Rutter, Notary Public
Lower Frederick Twp., Montgomery County
My Commission Expires Oct. 21, 2019
MEMBER, PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NOTARIES

1701 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2921

February 24, 2017

Michael Stewart Ryan, Esquire
Montgomery County District Attorney's Office
P.O. Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404-0311

Re: *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. George Bock Ditter*

Dear Mr. Ryan:

My name is Gordon Cooney and I am a litigator and partner with a global law firm in Philadelphia. I have been fortunate to appear before the federal or state courts of more than 35 states and I am a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. I am writing in my individual capacity and not as a representative of my firm.

From 1984-86, I had the high privilege to serve as a law clerk to the Honorable J. William Ditter, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am writing with respect to the pending case involving his son, George Ditter. Judge Ditter did not ask me to write this letter, but I feel compelled to offer some thoughts for your consideration as you contemplate your sentencing recommendation. My purpose is not to comment on the underlying charge or with regard to any defense concerning that charge. Rather, it is to offer more than 30 years of familiarity with the Ditter family.

Apart from my own father, Judge Ditter is, without question, the finest man I have ever known. Although we remained close following my clerkship, when my father passed away in 1999 Judge Ditter took a particular interest in me and he has been like a second father since that time. Judge Ditter is a true patriot, who served in the Navy during the Second World War. He has lived nearly his entire life as a committed public servant, whether in the office where you currently serve, on the bench in Montgomery County, or on the federal bench to which he was appointed in 1970. He followed in the footsteps of his own father, who, among other things, served with distinction in the U.S. Congress.

I admired Judge Ditter as his law clerk. As time has gone by and I have appeared before judges across our country, I have come to appreciate more

1701 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2921

Michael Stewart Ryan, Esquire

Page 2

fully Judge Ditter's unusual commitment to the law and the judicial process. He cares about every case assigned to his docket, and he evaluates the impact of his decisions on both the law and the people affected by those decisions. During my two years as his law clerk, I saw that nothing consumed Judge Ditter's attention more than arriving at a just sentence in a criminal case.

Judge Ditter has devoted himself to his family, and he brought his law clerks into his family circle. As a result, I had the good fortune to know the Judge's late wife, Verna, as well as their sons and their families. I have known George since my clerkship. George was a frequent visitor to Chambers; I have seen him at Judge Ditter's many gatherings over the years; and the Judge has often talked with great affection about all of his sons, including George, during my regular visits with the Judge. I know that the Judge and Mrs. Ditter instilled in George a strong love of country, commitment to the law, and love of family.

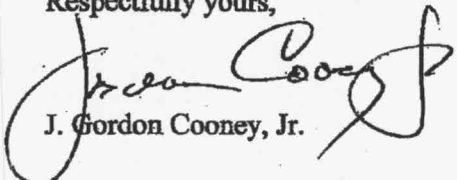
I don't pretend to know how George found himself in the current situation, but I do know that it is discordant with the way he has lived the rest of his life. I also know that it has exacted a heavy heavy toll on George, his family in general and his father in particular. Although the charges and conduct at issue have been truly heartbreaking to the Judge, he continues to love his son without qualification. Watching his family suffer as a result of his decisions has inflicted significant punishment on George. It is inconceivable to me that George would engage in this kind of conduct again.

You know the circumstances far better than I, but I would ask you to consider a sentencing recommendation that does not include incarceration. George has paid a heavy price already. There are alternatives that could serve the public interest. And other forms of sentence could better enable the rest of George's family to both heal and support him as he works to rebuild his life.

I suspect that you likely will need to discuss your recommendation with the District Attorney. I have known and respected him for a long time, as his wife was my friend and colleague at my law firm for many years. I would not presume to reach out to Mr. Steele without your consent, but if either you or Mr. Steele would find it helpful to talk with me about George, I would be happy to do so at your convenience.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully yours,


J. Gordon Cooney, Jr.

Tedd and Kathy Speck
410 Salford Station Road
Perkiomenville, PA 18074-9771
484-686-6223

March 13, 2017

Honorable Garrett Paige
Court of Common Pleas
of Montgomery County

RE: George B. Ditter
Perkiomenville, PA 18074

Dear Judge Paige:

As you know, George B. Ditter will be facing Your Honor in court on March 20, 2017. My husband and I have known George over approximately the past 25+ years.

Here is a short synopsis about us: I grew up in the Perkiomen valley. As a small town, we knew most people both in the community and in the school district. My husband grew up in the Philadelphia-Norristown area where people associated less with neighbors. Once my husband and I moved back to this area, we developed long-term friendships that remain intact. We have been in our current location for approximately 30+ years.

Our children (who also support our assessment of George) were in the Perkiomen Valley school system with the Ditter children and we would see each other often at school events, activities, and programs.


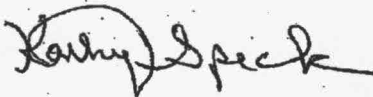
When our family sought out a new place of worship, we ended up in the same church, Tabor United Methodist Church, where we became involved in church events together with the Ditter family and served together on committees and activities within the Church. We have continually grown our friendship over the years, even though our children have moved on with their lives.

George was involved in many church events. He was a Trustee and handled many aspects of organizing needed repairs, finances for repairs, and helped to maintain a stable and honest level of workmanship. George taught Sunday School, ushered during Church, spoke out to motivate members to become more involved, helped in the kitchen and with other tasks around the church; and, occasionally George even led the morning worship services. George was involved with his church friendships. My husband and I could count on George for support and guidance.

Socially, we meet with the Ditters for breakfast and dinner meals where we reminisce, socialize and catch up on events of daily living between our children and our families.

My husband and I do not question George's character. His language, mannerisms and conduct are above reproach with us. George is kind, trustworthy, and helpful in every way. We are praying for a good outcome for George Ditter in this difficult time in his life.

Sincerely,

 and 

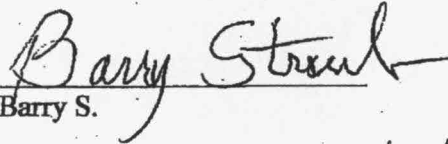
Tedd and Kathy Speck
David and Kyle Speck (children)
410 Salford Station Road
Perkiomenville, PA 18074
484-686-6223

My name is Barry S. (215-622-5348), I am a contact person for and a regular attendee of the Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous (SLAA) meeting held in Quakertown at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 560 S. Main Street, on Wednesday and Friday evenings. I certify that George D. has attended the SLAA meetings on the following dates:

In 2015 - 12/11, 12/16 and 12/30.

In 2016 - 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/26, 3/2, 3/11, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, 6/1, 6/8, 6/15, 6/24, 6/29, 7/6, 7/13, 7/20, 7/27, 8/3, 8/10, 8/17, 8/24, 8/31, 9/9, 9/14, 9/21, 9/28, 10/5, 10/19, 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21 and 12/28.

In 2017 - 1/4, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/24 and 3/1


Barry S.

3/1/17

25 January 2017

My name is John Foster Althouse. I live at 758 Perkiomenville Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074. My email address is jfalthouse@gmail.com and I can be reached by phone at 484 925 4077.

I am writing on behalf of George B. Ditter.

George Ditter has been my closest friend for over twenty-five years. He has taught my children in Sunday School at our church. He has represented members of our family for various legal services including the writing up of wills, creating business partnerships, and answering various legal questions.

He is a man of significant moral character. I state that with full conviction, based on his charity, service, leadership, and courage to stand up for and help so many people over the years.

George has always been the person most likely to step in and help a person or organization in need. The Tabor United Methodist Church had a run-down storage shed next to the cemetery that needed to be replaced. The church lacked the funds to repair it. Without being asked, George came over after hours and rebuilt the shed to new condition. He didn't tell anyone. He didn't submit a bill for the materials or the labor. He simply got it done. It was a while before anyone knew who the benefactor had been. This is one example. I could list hundreds.

George has served his community by participating and sometimes leading volunteer organizations. When he led, he did so by example. He organized volunteers and led them faithfully to pick up trash along route 63. He sometimes did this by himself when no one else stepped forward to help. I was one of those who never volunteered. George would occasionally joke about my lack of cart way beautification skills, but never made me feel ashamed in any way for not assisting. He was always focused on getting things done and treating everyone equal regardless of their station or situation. George sang in the choir. Not because his voice was any better than anyone else's but because the choir needed volunteers and George willingly and faithfully participated. George shows tremendous character and leadership skills. Often when a group of us decide to move forward with an idea, George is the person who mindfully pulls us back to first carefully consider alternatives, possible details, and potential pitfalls, especially legal concerns.

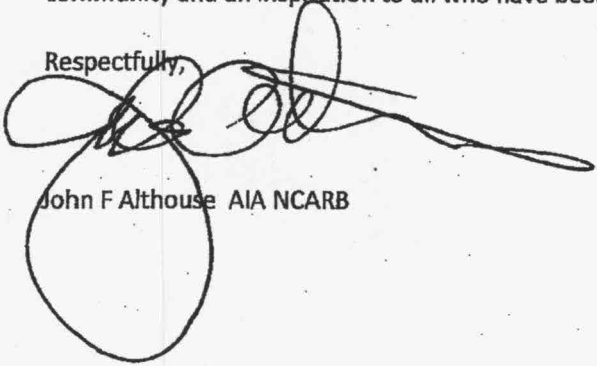
When this present legal situation erupted, George immediately withdrew from teaching at our church. He withdrew from all leadership positions. He did not want anyone to feel they had to leave our church because of his situation. He immediately told his Sunday School class what he had done and what he was accused of. He voluntarily on his own initiative, spoke before the entire congregation and tearfully offered his apology. He made no excuses, simply saying that he had done wrong, accepted whatever would result and begged our pardon.

The support from his fellow church members, particularly his class of young adults, was overwhelming. We rallied as one congregation even as others who did not know him balked. I think the common opinion of George's situation was that but for the grace of God go all of us as well.

George is the person I have trusted with my family, my legal needs for business and home, and with my personal times of trial and challenge. George without fail has always been there for me and my family. I wish I could say I have been as consistent and caring as he. He is a role model for my children and my best friend. I can honestly say without hesitation that he is one of the most remarkable, charitable, and

honest men I have ever known. It is a privilege to know him and what has happened to him in no way changes my high opinion of him. It has only increased. To call him my friend, especially during this trying time in his life, means even more as I see him humbly walk forward, chin up, and ready to accept whatever comes. There is no one else I can name who exhibits better character. He is an asset to this community and an inspiration to all who have been lucky to know him.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Althouse". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John F Althouse AIA NCARB

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Diane Althouse. I live at 758 Perkiomenville Rd., Perkiomenville, PA 18074. My email address is dalthouse14@gmail.com and I can be reached by phone at 484-949-1426.

I am writing this letter to testify to the character of my good friend George B. Ditter. I have known George and his family for approximately thirty years. I met George through Tabor United Methodist Church where we still attend. I have attended Bible Study groups with George. I have been a student in his adult Sunday school class where I have learned a great deal about the history of the church and particularly John Wesley. We have worked together on various church projects such as Christmas plays, church meals, community trash pick-up along route 63, and decorating for Christmas. George and his wife and I sang in our church choir together for many years.

George and Maryanne and their children have been guests in our home many times over the years as we have been in theirs. My husband and I consider George and Maryanne to be some of our dearest and most trusted friends. We have traveled together a couple of times in the past two years, and I always enjoy George's company, his humor, his creativity, and his kindness.

George is the type of person who steps in to take care of a situation or fix something without being asked. He is a woodworker, an artist, and just generally good at fixing things and he often works behind the scenes at church to keep things going. He is the person to call in an emergency knowing that he would come to your aid at any time without complaint. I have watched for years as he has cared for his father and his brother. He is devoted to his wife and children. He has shown such kindness to my family in so many ways over the years.

Two of our five children are adopted and George and Maryanne supported us, and prayed for us as we went through the long process of waiting and working through the adoptions. They wrote reference letters for us and George worked at the last minute to help us get our wills in order before we traveled to get our children. George has been a great encouragement to many of the young adults in our church through his teaching. Many of the students in his class were going through a transitional time between High School, college, and into adulthood. They loved his teaching and his humor, but especially his caring and interest in their lives. Our own daughter was in that class and considers George to be her good friend.

I have gained an even greater respect for George as I have watched him walk through this difficult time in his life. He has been open and transparent with his friends and family. Instead of giving up or becoming focused on himself, he continues to find ways to serve others. George Ditter is one of the finest people I have been privileged to know and I am thankful to call him my friend.

Diane Althouse

Your Honor,

I am aware that George Ditter has been charged with possessing child pornography and I voluntarily provide this character reference on his behalf. George approached me after church services on February 26 and asked if I would provide a reference for him.

When George was arrested in October 2015 his family was quite concerned that he might try to hurt himself because of how distraught he had become. George told me later that he did think about ending his life but felt it would have killed his father, the Honorable J. William Ditter Jr. I am so happy that George did not end his life but rather sought God, got help through SLAA, and has deepened his Christian Faith.

I first met George in 1995 at Tabor United Methodist and I have considered George my friend for over 20 years. George was an adult Sunday school teacher for many years; I personally attended his class many times.

Shortly after joining Tabor United Methodist Church, George invited my family to attend a Bible study and Game night that was hosted by his family in his home. These were always great fun and were always a highlight for our family.

At church, George has held several leadership positions, including Trustee and member of Administrative Council. While George served as a Trustee, he began a highway cleanup program along Route 63 from Sumneytown through Green Lane.

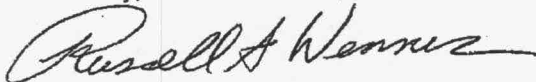
Here are some additional examples of George's character. George would often be asked to deliver the sermon on a Sunday while the Pastor was away on vacation or other church business. George was an inspiration to me when he went on a Missions trip to Liberia Africa in 2010. George recently organized fundraiser to replace the ceiling and lighting in the church's fellowship hall. George assisted with installation of outdoor basketball equipment for Tabor's community outreach ministry known simply as "Tuesday Night Basketball."

For the last few years, George has been attending the church Men's Retreat at Spruce Lake. While at the 2016 Men's Retreat George shared with me his desire to somehow share his story with others in an effort to help others. At the 2017 Men's Retreat George told me that he would be speaking at an SLAA meeting sharing his story. I believe George is using his experience to help others.

To keep himself busy George has been doing wood working projects making crafts to sell at shows. George built and installed a new clothesline at my home he made from pressure treated wood.

George's faith in God has grown through this experience. The congregation has been supportive and gracious to George. Since his arrest, I have observed George grow closer to God and I believe he is truly remorseful. I am proud to call George Ditter my friend.

Sincerely,



Russell A. Wenner

3/2/17

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter as a character reference for George B. Ditter. I am fully aware of the crime of which he is accused and I am writing this letter of my own free will.

I first met George when I began regularly attending Tabor United Methodist Church in October 1995. George welcomed my family into the congregation with open and loving arms at a challenging time in my family's life. Initially, I only saw George on Sunday mornings where he was always even-keeled and in good spirits. But, as time went on, our families began spending time together throughout the week also.


George participated in many Sunday school classes and bible studies that I was a part over the years. His participation was always very contemplative and he often challenged other group members to dig beneath the surface and truly explore the life lessons that could come from the study. At times, he was the group leader and at other times, he respectfully submitted to the leadership of others. George saw both types of experiences as beneficial and demonstrated the ability to be flexible to others.

George's humor often cut the tension when stress was high. As a Registered Nurse, I consider anyone who can reduce tension in others a tremendous asset. Through the gift of humor, George regularly had a positive stress-reducing influence on others. His personality and unique perspective frequently improved the mood and made situations more enjoyable.

Another characteristic that I have found particularly beneficial in George is his ability to teach others through his own experiences, whether good or bad. George is always willing to share something that will help others, even if it comes with great personal cost. George once told me that hard truth that a threat my employer had made was actually legal. It wasn't something I wanted to hear, but George was willing to tell me the truth even if it wasn't what I wanted to hear. Likewise, he has been willing to share some of his current struggles in order to minimize grapevine rumors and to minimize damage to others.

Having known George Ditter for over 20 years now, I consider him a very dear friend. I believe both of my adult children have benefited from having George in their lives. All of us have looked up to George as a respectable, well-educated, service-oriented man of God. My family knows George is not perfect, but we also believe he has learned from his current situation and my entire family continues to hold him in high esteem.

Sincerely,



Dr. Teresa A. Wenner, EdD, MSN, RN-BC

3310 Bartram Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090
February 28, 2017

Honorable Judge Garret D. Page
Montgomery County Courthouse
P. O. Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404

Dear Judge Page,

I have known George Ditter (hearing date March 20, 2017) for over 20 years and I am writing this letter to give you my insight into George's character.

I was an Upper Moreland Township Commissioner for over 20 years, serving as the board president for 6 years and vice-president for 6 years. I was also a member of the PA State Association of First Class Townships for over 15 years serving as secretary, treasurer, vice-president and president of both the Montgomery County and the Eastern PA divisions. I was formally recognized as the Eastern PA Commissioner of the year in 2002.

I am also involved with a variety of other community organizations including the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust where I was a member of the board of trustees for 23 years, treasurer for 13 years, 5 years as vice-president and 5 years as president. I have been involved with the Upper Moreland Library for over 16 years in various board capacities including that of secretary and treasurer. I am currently on the Upper Moreland Revitalization Advisory Committee, which is tasked with writing a new comprehensive township plan for Upper Moreland. I have also been an active Committee Man for over 26 years.

Formerly, I served as president of the Upper Moreland Township Foundation for 9 years, a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee for 4 years, the Pennypack Greenway Partnership for 4 years and the Willow Grove Tri-Centennial committee for 3 years.

I first met George Ditter when I was elected an Upper Moreland Commissioner. We served together for a period of approximately 16 years. During that time, I had weekly interaction with George during both township public and private

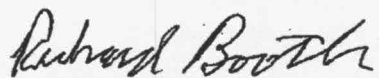
meetings. Importantly, I got to know George and his wife at the twice annual overnight conventions of regional and state commissioners that lasted several days. Additionally, my wife and I were invited to his house on at least 2 occasions. I also interacted with George at county committee meetings where we discussed candidates running for elected office.

During these interactions, I believe I got to know George quite well. First I would like to state that on a professional basis, George was an excellent municipal attorney who handled legal and procedural questions that arose in both private and public meetings with an even but firm hand. He treated both the public and public officials fairly and without rancor.

Over the years, I have found George to be a highly intelligent gentleman with a witty sense of humor. He often talked about his 2 children in such a way that it was apparent that he was a devoted father. In like manner, he would talk about his wife, relating her church activities and the mission trips she would undertake to help poor people of the world. He was very proud of his wife's efforts in these endeavors. It seemed obvious from his conversations, that he and his wife were both dedicated church goers. Additionally, he spoke from time to time about his membership at a local chapter of Rotary with all the good works that they do both locally and internationally. I believe at one time he was the president of the chapter. He was also involved in a historical reenactor group relating to 18th century crafts, firearms, etc. I am sure George was probably involved with other groups that I am not aware of.

My feelings about George always were that he is a person that you could go to if you had a problem or needed help.

I am available to answer any questions that you may have about George.



Richard Booth
215-657-2415

To whom this may concern:

I am William (Bill) D. Jacobs, residing at 2201 Hendricks Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073. I am a retired teacher, and am currently serving as a Supervisor for Marlborough Township. I am a long time member of Tabor United Methodist Church in Woxall, PA. You may contact me at wdjacobs@comcast.net or by calling 215-679-8339.

This is a character reference letter for George Ditter. George is both a fellow parishioner and a personal friend of mine. Most of my interaction with him has been church related, but there have been numerous other non-church interactions too. George has been a reliable friend in whom I place my full trust. Neither he nor I have been close to perfect, yet we are accepting and forgiving of each other and remain good friends.

I have served on Trustees at Tabor UM Church since the 70's, and most of that time it has been alongside George. He was President of Trustees for years and served admirably. At Tabor we were in various Sunday School classes together, some of which he served as the teacher. Working on his litter pickup days was never a favorite of mine, but it was a good thing to do for the community, and he was the leader of that project. George has been considered one of Tabor's influential leaders for some time, even leading worship services on occasion.

George is quite willing to sacrifice his time and money to help others. Recently he re-shingled our cemetery shed, re-sided it, painted it, and repaired trim and doors to it. Nobody asked him to do this, though it was in dire need of repair. I asked George to give me a bill for the parts, to which he responded "zero dollars".

Though I am aware of George's recent misfortune, I still trust him as a friend. I have never witnessed any immoral actions at church in any of his leadership roles, or in any role for that matter. I know from discussions with him that he regrets his wrongdoing and sincerely seeks God's will.

Sincerely,

William D. Jacobs

William D. Jacobs
12-9-2016

November 24, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Richard M. Fetzer. I reside at 2200 Hendricks Station Road, Woxall, PA 18979. My mailing address is P.O. Box 103, Woxall, PA 18979. Home phone – 215 234 8784. Email – woxallosc@yahoo.com.

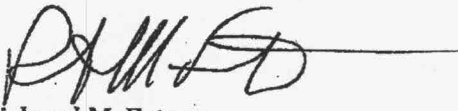
I have known George Ditter since the mid-1980s. He and his family began to attend the Tabor United Methodist Church where my family attended some time in that period. I have interacted with George at Tabor in various activities. George has been in my Sunday school classes and I have been a member of his classes. I have participated in evening Bible studies with George and his wife Maryanne for years. I have worked with George at the church on workdays and litter pickup days. George had been the co-chair of our churches Board of Trustees for many years. I also participated in a Christian mission trip to Liberia with George and 12 others for approximately 10 days in 2010.

I have also interacted with George in non-church related activities. George and I have participated in historical woodworking together at a local historical festival making wooden hay rakes, hayforks and other wooden farming implements. This festival is attended by the general public of all ages. Part of our demonstration of this craft included allowing families of all ages to take part in some of the basic woodworking skills. Also, George lives approximately 1 mile from my home, so I consider George a neighbor, in addition to my church and hobby relationships.

In summary, I have known George in three types of relationships (church, hobby, neighbor) for over 30 years. It's on the basis of these relationships that I bear witness to George's moral character. At many occasions during these years George and I have discussed various religious moral topics, etc. Based on these discussions and George's actions, I consider him to be a man trying to live a good moral life, according to Christian values. I have never seen him act inappropriately in any of his dealings with anyone at church, at the historical festival, in the neighborhood, or on the mission trip to Liberia.

Since the charges of September 2015, I have witnessed George as a contrite man, who deeply regrets his actions for which he has confessed. George is also diligent in attending our Thursday night Prayer Service where he seeks prayer for himself and for others. I know that he sought personal counseling to address his issues. I have full confidence that George will continue to work hard on these aspects of his life.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Fetzer

December 22, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Nancy H. Thimm. My address is 219 Hendricks Road, Perkiomenville, PA 18074. My home phone is: 215-234-8132 and my e-mail address is cnthimm@gmail.com.

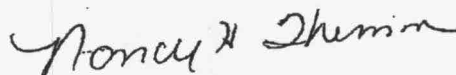
I met George and his family at the church we attend which is Tabor United Methodist Church in Woxall, PA. This was sometime in the mid-1980's. He also happens to live just down the road from our home. We became involved in the same Sunday School classes and Bible studies. We participated in many of the same church activities throughout the years.

My daughter and George's daughter are great friends and my daughter spent a lot of time growing up at the Ditter house. We also took a vacation with their family on our way to Arkansas for a Christian convention called Aldersgate Renewal Ministries. Being neighbors we have helped one another out from time to time. George has plowed our driveway many times when it has snowed and helped cut down tree. He's always willing to lend a hand.

I have known George for over 30 years. I never saw him acting inappropriately with anyone at any time. In fact, I would say he is just the opposite. He's generous with his time, he's caring and very devoted to his family and friends. After the charges made last year, George came over to talk to my husband and me. My son was about to be married and the Ditters were invited to the wedding. George told me he would understand if we asked him not to come. My son has known George most of his life and wanted George to attend the wedding in spite of these charges. George has been a friend to our family and will always continue to be.

I know George has been in counseling for his issues and has sought prayer at church. I have been in Sunday School classes with George since last year and can see how much he regrets his actions and how hard he is working to put his life back together. I have confidence that George will continue to work hard and I will support him in any way I can.

Sincerely,



Nancy H. Thimm

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Hayley Schaffer and I currently live in Green Lane, PA. My cell phone number is 484-366-7358 and my personal email address is schafferhayley@gmail.com.

I have known George Ditter my entire life as a friend and through Tabor United Methodist Church. Throughout my life, George has played an influential part in my Biblical understanding, spiritual development, and college education.

As I child, George and his family were always very close to my family. We attended the same church and lived within ten minutes of each other. His two children and I, (along with my siblings), share many fond childhood memories of Church picnics, Youth group activities, Summer camp, and family get-togethers. I am honored to be a bridesmaid in his son's wedding party this summer.

As a young adult and college undergrad, George always made it a point to seek me out on Sunday mornings to catch up and talk about my English classes. I now have a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and I thank a lot of my success and good grades to George's inspiration and kindness. I remember during a particularly difficult class, George lent me books from his own library to use as resources for my final paper. Without asking him to, George had bookmarked certain passages and written notes for me on his own research he had done on the topic. Thanks to George's kindness and consideration, I earned one of the highest grades out of all the students in that class. George was always encouraging me with anecdotes from his own college experiences as an English Major. During that time in my life, I was struggling with my own identity as a Christian and a young adult. It was George's genuine interest in me as a person that really kept me coming back to church. I knew that even if nobody else cared that I was there, George cared and would talk to me about our shared interests and ideas. His friendship and kindness spoke volumes to me.

George was my Sunday School teacher for a time. Our class studied many different readings and analyses of the Bible. I remember a particular time when George led the class in a close reading of C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. We spent several weeks discussing the book. George always presented the material to us in an open and honest format. He guided our discussions by asking the class questions and allowing everyone to formulate their own understanding. Following the charges made in 2015, George asked to meet with our class and he confessed to us the situation he was facing. It was clear to me that George was heartbroken over his actions. Speaking as an imperfect and sinful person, I am still so impressed with George's willingness and courage to confess to all of us what happened. Since that time, George has stepped down from teaching our Sunday School class. However, I have seen how this experience has shaped him emotionally and spiritually. George is open, honest, and remorseful over what he has done. I know he is seeking professional counseling and support over these issues. He also regularly attends church and seeks prayer and forgiveness for himself.

One of the most inspiring things to me is how George strives to remain productive and a good neighbor during this time. I often see him outside doing yard work or renovations on his house. During the Christmas season, he woodworked, painted, carved, and built many beautiful Christmas decorations that can be found in the homes of local friends and church goers. Before my wedding this past fall, I jokingly asked George to build me an arbor. A week later he showed up to my house with the pieces of a handmade arbor which he had built from trees he cut down in his backyard. Within an hour, He had it completely assembled and standing strong and beautiful.

It is from these various examples and my long continuing friendship with George that I bear witness to his kind and moral character. He is a human being that has made a mistake, but you have my word that I trust and believe George to be a changed person. He has confessed and continuously seeks to better himself through this experience.

Sincerely,

Hayley Schaffer

December 18th, 2016

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Steven E. Jefferson. I currently live at 2706 Walnut Ridge Estate, Pottstown Pa 19464. My Email adress is Dicedestroyers@msn.com. My phone number is 610-220-3049.

I have known George Ditter since I began attending Tabor United Methodist Church in 2013. He was consistent in teaching the young adult sunday school class there every week, bringing a challenging message with many relating historical references. He has also shared his warmth and humor with much of the church including myself. It is through this relationship, as a friend, and an instructor, that i have known him for the past three years.

It is through the development of these two relationships that i have come to know George personally. I have discovered him to be a man of great wisdom and discretion. As an instuctor he has guided us through several topics that have encouraged each of us to have a deeper understanding of the subject and a humility towards one another's personal convictions. As a friend, he has brought an attitude of positivity with him routinely, a spirit of transperency habitually, and consistently shown kindness to me, my wife, our sunday school class, and to all of Tabor Church.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven E. Jefferson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven E. Jefferson

December 18, 2016

To whom I may concern:

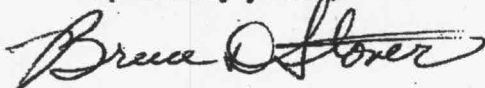
My name is Bruce D. Stover. My address is 305 Sturgis Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. My phone number is (215) 256-0348.

I first met George Ditter and his family in the mid 1980's when my family moved to Harleysville and began attending Tabor United Methodist Church. I have known him throughout the years since then on a weekly and very often multiple times weekly basis. We have shared in many church related activities including choir, fellow church trustees, various classes and studies, prayer meetings, church outings and retreats, litter pick-ups and work projects among many others.

We have worked on non-church related projects, shared family meals and parties, and helped others through service projects. We have worked together on woodworking projects and also historical woodworking through the local historians' festivals in our area.

I have always observed and respected his very high level of moral character and commitment to integrity. I have never observed firsthand nor heard of anything to the contrary. I have never seen anything done or spoken inappropriately with anyone in our church community or local non-church community, including with our youth and children. I have seen a helpful, caring person trying to live a good moral life as well as a life through Christian values.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce D. Stover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "B".

Bruce D. Stover

Susan M. Fetzer
P.O. Box 103
Woxall, PA 18979
215-234-8784

December 20, 2016

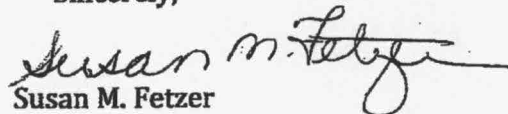
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to provide a character reference for George Ditter.

I have known George for approximately 30 years. He and his wife, Maryanne, and their family began to attend the church that my family also attends. Through the years my husband and I have become good friends with George and Maryanne. I have participated with George in various Bible studies and Sunday School classes. He currently attends a Sunday School class that my husband and I teach. George has also sung in the church choir with my husband, daughter and myself. George and his wife and my husband and I also traveled to Liberia with a missions group to teach a seminar at a Liberian United Methodist seminary that was attended by local pastors and students.

In the past year George has begun to attend a prayer group that gathers weekly in our church chapel to pray for friends, neighbors and our church family. George is diligent about attending these times of prayer. He has asked for prayer for others and we have also prayed for George. He joins with us in prayer. He has humbled himself and honestly admits his regrets over any of his shortcomings. He expresses concern and compassion for others. Just this week he joined a small group from our church to go Christmas caroling to members who are not able to regularly attend worship services. In short, I see George as a man who wishes to make changes in his life. He is taking steps toward that goal and I support his efforts.

Sincerely,


Susan M. Fetzer

12/17/16

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Alice Hollingsworth. My address is 1517 Salford Station Rd. Harleysville PA, 19438. My phone number is (610) 287-5239. I can be reached by email at rahmom@verizon.net.

I have known George for approximately 30 years. We met when we joined the church where he worshipped. We became friends through a small group Bible study that we both attended. George was the chair of the trustees for the church for many years. He also headed up "Litter pick-up". He ushered, sang in the choir, and helped with renovations at the parsonage. He repaired homes for senior members. George has also recently been coming to a weekly prayer time that I attend. George has gone on mission trips within our country as well as outside of the United States. For as long as I have known him George has lived his life to serve God and help others.

As our friendship grew, we spent time together outside of church activities. We have celebrated several holidays with George and his family, including Christmas, 2015. Our children have become very close friends. Two years ago, our family vacationed with George and his family together in Disney World where we rented a house together. During our time in Florida, George took it upon himself to be sure everyone had fun and was safe. This included making sure there were appropriate activities for both my special needs daughter and my husband, who was in a wheel chair at that time.

It is through knowing him on these many levels that I can attest to George's character. I have seen him go out of his way to help others more times than I could possibly name. George will help in whatever way he is needed, whether it is driving someone where they need to go, helping to repair a home, or offering wisdom and advise if it is sought out. George has many friends within the church and neighborhood. I have seen his friends rally together to support him in this difficult time. George Ditter is human, but he is a good man who has lived his life to help others. It is my hope that you will recognize this through the details I have provided. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Alice Hollingsworth

12/17/16

To whom it May Concern,

My name is Richard Hollingsworth. I live at 1517 Safford Station rd., Harleysville, Pa 19438. My phone number is (610) 287-5239.

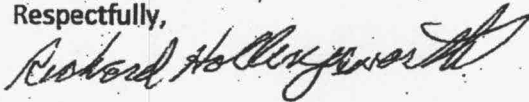
I have known George Ditter for approximately 30 years. We first met George at our church, Tabor United Methodist Church. We have attended many Bible studies together and several retreats. I was a trustee under George's direction and he had me represent Trustees at the church's Administrative Council where I met and became friends with George's father.

George gave quite a few church members legal help in the form of advice on the laws of Pennsylvania.

George is currently attending a clinic, and we sometimes discuss what he is learning there.

I consider George a close friend and do not feel he poses a threat to anyone within or outside of our community.

Respectfully,



Richard Hollingsworth