



January 22, 2020

Letter of Reference: Charlie Welke  
Personal Formation and Passion for Preaching

To Whom It May Concern:

Without hesitation, I offer this letter of reference for my brother in Christ, fellow-preacher, pastor, and friend, Charlie Welke. This letter of reference is specifically intended to speak of Charlie's personal spiritual formation and his passion for preaching.

I have known Charlie for ten years. From the very start of our relationship, I have found him to be a faithful apprentice of our Lord. Charlie entered Lincoln Christian University's Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation, in which I serve as director. He gave himself wholeheartedly to study and the pursuit of practicing what he was learning. He completed that two-year program with distinction. In the subsequent years, we have met numerous times to talk about his ongoing formation, along with the progress and challenges that all of us face who seek to cooperate with the work of the Holy Spirit. I have found Charlie entirely committed to a life-long pursuit of knowing Jesus and making Him known. Any congregation that called Charlie to serve as their pastor would find in him a man grounded in the holy habits of Word-intake, prayer-intimacy, and worship intensity. Charlie's past, present, and future is tethered to the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus.

Likewise, Charlie's passion for preaching is equally vibrant. He hungers to grow as an expositor of the Word. He solicits input and help in refining his craft of proclaiming Christ and the Gospel. He is faithful in his study habits and superbly gifted in bringing his listeners toward genuine application of Scripture. We have studied together. Reasoned together. Planned together. Prayed together. Retreated together. Traveled together. Evaluated together and served together. All to the glory of Christ and Charlie's growth as a preacher. I commend him to any congregation that is wanting to call a man of the Book.

It is hard for me to bid Charlie farewell, but I wish for him a leadership role in the church that goes beyond his current situation at Eastview Christian Church, Normal, Illinois. He is ready.

With grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. J.K. Jones Jr.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. J.K. Jones Jr.

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