



November 13, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a recommendation for Mr. Rex Butts.

Rex has been a friend for many years. We first met after a lecture I gave at Harding Graduate School of Religion in 2003. Rex had recently lost his son to death and we shared our experiences. I remember the moment well as I recognized his pain and struggle. We have maintained a friendship ever since.

In addition, Rex was a student of mine during his pursuit of the Master of Divinity degree at Harding University Graduate School of Religion.

Rex excels in his reading of the biblical text and his sense of how the biblical story unfolds. I would trust my church with his preaching and teaching. I would also trust my congregation with his pastoral sensitivity. He has known loss in his own life, and this has gifted him with a perspective (which neither he nor I ever wanted) that is able to connect with hurting people.

We have remained friends over the years and we are in frequent contact through social media. I read his blog, listen to his concerns, and appreciate his pastoral wisdom.

Rex has my utmost confidence. I highly recommend him as a minister, teacher, and friend.

Sincerely,

John Mark Hicks
Professor of Theology
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200 John Tyler Lane
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

October 27, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to be able to share with you my admiration and feelings for Rex Butts, both as a friend and co-laborer in God's mission.

I have known Rex now for over three years. In that time we have talked countless times about life, faith, ministry and the mission of God. I have also had the pleasure of leading him in a discipling huddle week after week for over a year.

Rex's commitment to his family is inspiring. He is a sensitive husband, committed father and humble leader for his family. Rex wants his family to know King Jesus as disciples, not merely church attenders. Above all, Rex models the life he preaches.

As for Rex's love for God, I have seen the fruit of God's Spirit flow from his life. I have walked with Rex in times of joy and accomplishment. Each time Rex never jockeyed for the glory. He always made sure the glory went to God. I know this should be a given but we ministers can lean toward self-aggrandizement. Not Rex. He is keenly self-aware, and that is important. I have also walked with Rex in times of challenge and disappointment. In the midst of it all he was certain to seek counsel, remain humble and love others more than himself. Degrees and theological education mean nothing if the student isn't wise. Rex is wise. In times of sorrow and conflict I have seen his wisdom manifest itself in love, understanding and humble boldness. Rex walks with King Jesus and rests assuredly in the love our Father.

As for Rex's love for the Church, he has given his life away to the Bride of Christ. He works tirelessly as a humble leader, one given to hospitality and love. He makes room in his life for all others not as an enabler with a messiah-complex, but as a disciple-maker who glories in the Messiah. He is a great writer and preacher who exegetes his "audience" as well as the biblical text. Rex listens both to the Church and the city in which she lives. He understands that God's mission has a Church and that she is called to bear witness to the in-breaking of God's kingdom for the good of the city and to the praise of His glory. And Rex doesn't go at it alone. He is a team-player that recognizes that all saints must be equipped, empowered and sent in community, as a community. Finally, and arguably most important, Rex apologizes when he is wrong. He understands our need for reconciliation, to be forgiven and offer forgiveness. He knows he isn't perfect and pursues faithfulness in humility.

I humbly encourage you to meet with Rex. Listening to sermons and reading resumes can only tell us so much about a minister. Sitting together, listening and sharing in God's presence face to face, well, that is when the Spirit can speak deeply.

Thank you for reading my letter. May God bless you in this journey.

Respectfully Yours,

Fred Liggin
Lead Minister, Williamsburg Christian Church



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REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

July 13, 2014

Religious Support Office

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to recommend Brother Rex Butts to serve as one of God's ministers. He is a man of conviction, energy, and integrity. He is a leader who is willing to receive feedback and coaching. He is a servant who, through hardships and challenges, has the ability to persevere. Rex handles the Word of God with a deep respect for the Holy Spirit's inspiration, scholarship, and context. He then is able to apply the Scriptures in practical and understandable ways. He is not bound by any church's status quo. His sense of mission drives him to be a visionary for the church's future.

If you would like to speak with me further about Rex's service, feel free to contact me through the following e-mail address: gary.g.payne.mil@mail.mil.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary G. Payne".

Gary G. Payne
Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel), US Army
Garrison Chaplain