

Kevin Rains
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To the CWF Board and CWF Personnel Committee:

This letter is in reference to Aaron Klinefelter's application for employment. I have only known Aaron for about 6 months but have lived in the same household for that entire time allowing us develop a close friendship and working relationship on several projects related to our shared vision of ministry.

In brief, let me say that Aaron would be an asset to any organization but for yours he is an almost perfect match. There are several reasons why I think this.

One, Aaron recently oversaw a large event for our church on Good Friday. He was instrumental in the full range of coming up with the concept, sharing the vision, recruiting others to help and then overseeing the production. The event had close to 70 volunteers most of them college aged artists, and over 250 participants. Though the level of organization required was very complex the entire event came off without a hitch. The thing that impressed me most though was Aaron's ability to get others to lead and take initiative and feel ownership of the event. He constantly was highlighting the efforts of others and downplaying his role. Those close to the event knew that his role was pivotal in spite of his efforts to 'blame' the huge success of the event on everyone but himself. The event was held in a low income, diverse neighborhood. Aaron went out of his way to encourage and include a diverse population. He translated everything from the advertising to the actual event into Spanish for our Hispanic neighbors and made sure that all in the neighborhood knew they were welcomed to participate.

Second, Aaron is a networker par excellence. He has opened doors for me city wide and he has only lived here a short time. His unique mix of being gregarious and selfless makes him immediately likable and approachable. People are naturally drawn to him and he delights to see his many friends connect with each other. Though he has only lived in Cincinnati a short time he has introduced me to several groups and individuals that have greatly enriched my life.

Third, Aaron is an amazing counselor. I have not only personally benefited from his ability to listen and offer guidance but I have observed him doing this with many others. We are in a small group together and within a few short weeks he was asked to take over the pastoral responsibilities of the group. Several in the group recognized his abilities almost right away to guide individuals and groups. His care giving and guidance abilities are great. In fact I have decided in the last week to pursue graduate level education based on his input. He listened to my desires and recognized patterns that I could not see and

then gently recommended I pursue a graduate degree. Others who know me have agreed with his advice and I am applying this week for a Doctor of Ministry degree thanks to Aaron's initial input.

Finally, Aaron blends the artistic and administrative like no other person I know. He is a dreamer in the best sense of that word with an overflow of ideas for social change. He is also very organized and methodical. He knows how to generate ideas then give them traction through his many abilities to make things happen. The Good Friday event was one example of this but there have been many others from small things like taking initiative on the church property to develop a neglected flower bed to reinstating a church wide online journal that helps information flow in our very decentralized congregation. (Oh, and that reminds me he is a whiz on computers. He has bailed me out several times when my computer has faltered.)

Aaron and his lovely, hospitable family would make an excellent addition to any ministry but he seems especially suited for yours for the reasons mentioned above as well as his life time connection to the UMC.

May God bless and guide your decision.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Rains