



Re: Pastoral Reference Policy

Dear Parents,

At Abundant Life Church of Christ Inc., we take the matter of pastoral reference for Christian college enrolment seriously. At Abundant Life Church of Christ, we strongly believe it is essential to uphold fairness, honesty, and integrity while providing relevant and meaningful information that accurately reflects the character, abilities, and potential of the individuals requesting a reference. Whilst we will do our best to assist in this matter, writing a pastoral reference is a joint effort to working and collaborating with Christian colleges that seeks to fulfill the vision and mission of both the church and the school involved. In writing any pastoral reference, the following are taken into serious consideration;

1. Voluntary Submission:

At Abundant Life Church of Christ, no pastors/individual should feel obligated or coerced into requesting a reference. The decision to seek a pastoral reference should be based on personal choice and should not impact their standing within the church community.

2. Honest and Objective Assessment:

At Abundant Life Church of Christ, we strive for honest and objective assessments when writing pastoral references. It is crucial to provide an accurate evaluation of the individual's character, involvement in church activities, and potential to contribute positively to the academic or employment setting. References should reflect both strengths and areas for growth, based on firsthand knowledge and observation by the church pastors.

3. Confidentiality and Privacy:

Abundant Life Church of Christ will ensure the confidentiality and privacy of individuals when writing pastoral references. The information shared within the reference will only be disclosed to authorized recipients, such as educational institutions or employers, and should be handled with the utmost care and professionalism.

4. Compliance with Legal and Ethical Standards:

Abundant Life Church of Christ will adhere to all applicable legal and ethical standards when writing pastoral references. This includes protecting against discrimination based on race, gender, religion, or any other protected characteristic. References should focus solely on the individual's qualifications, character, and potential.

5. Transparency and Communication:

Abundant Life Church of Christ will communicate openly with individuals seeking a pastoral reference, explaining the purpose, content, and potential impact of the reference. It is important to establish clear channels of communication and allow individuals the opportunity to review the reference before it is submitted. This ensures transparency and allows for any concerns or clarifications to be addressed.

A request for a written pastoral reference will be based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the individual and the pastor/minister. Before a written letter can be written, it is important that parents and children must meet the following minimum requirements.

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1. Attend Abundant Life Church of Christ Sunday service weekly for a minimum of 3-6 months with an ongoing commitment to church attendance.
 2. Children must be involved in attending kids church and its activities that explores the Christian faith and practices.
 3. Parents must be willing to be open minded to hear, and explore the Christian faith, not out of compulsion but a willingness to learn, grow and foster an environment at home for the upbringing of godly children.
 4. Parents must be willing to attend additional church program that will explore Christianity. Programs such as Alpha Course and Firm Foundations will be scheduled to run during the Spring and Summer seasons each year.

By implementing this policy guideline, we want to ensure the responsible and ethical writing of pastoral references. It upholds the principles of fairness, transparency, and respect for the privacy and dignity of individuals seeking references. By adhering to these guidelines, the church can contribute positively to the academic and employment endeavors of its members while maintaining its integrity and reputation within the Christian community.

Our aim is to work together with Christian schools for the betterment of society and community that reflects Christian values and practices according to the Bible. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact or speak to me personally.

Yours Sincerely,



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Senior Pastor

Abundant Life Church of Christ Inc.