

February 23, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to write to you a recommendation letter for Miles Crane. I have served as Miles' youth minister since he was in early elementary school. I have had the privilege of watching Miles grow into the intelligent, caring, and creative person he is today. In this letter, I'd like to highlight a few of Miles' character traits that I believe will help him to succeed in any life endeavor.

The first thing I'd like to point out is how mindful Miles is of the world around him. It doesn't take long to notice that Miles is a person of great love and concern for others and for the natural world. He is thoughtful and considerate in his approach to peers as well as adults. In a youth group setting, Miles is respectful and allows space for others to be their true selves. He deeply cares about the wellbeing of his friends and family. Through our conversations over the years, I have noticed a wealth of mature empathy and concern for his peers. Being a teenager in this day and age is not easy. Miles gets that and he continues to show me how he supports his friends through being there for them, advocating for them, and listening.

Miles is also incredibly talented in the field of technology. At the beginning of the pandemic, all of our worship services were held exclusively online. Participants in worship had to video their parts to the church staff during the week so that the staff could knit together a worship video filled with prayers, singing, sermon, scripture reading, communion, and offering. It is a tradition in our church each year to allow one Sunday for the youth group to lead every aspect of worship. In 2020, since we were worshipping online, Miles volunteered to put together, edit, and produce the worship video for Youth Sunday. It was impressive, to say the least! The workload was heavy and there was a clear deadline in which he had to be aware. But he did not let the stress overcome him. Miles produced a beautiful worship video full of meaningful moments, smooth transitions, and creative editing. We would have liked to hire him on the spot! During this endeavor, we became privy to Miles' work ethic and professionalism in computer skills.

The last thing I would like to mention about Miles relates to the strength and perseverance of his character. Like all teenagers, Miles has had ups and downs over these last several years. Life has been especially challenging due to the pandemic. Even in his hardest times, Miles continued to listen to his own needs and do the things necessary to keep him healthy. It wasn't always easy, but he didn't give up. He was a regular attendant of our weekly Zoom youth meetings. He even helped lead the games we played and the conversations we had. He knew that socializing with friends during a time when we could not be physically together was vital for his wellbeing and mental health. He also knows himself well enough to know when he needs to step back and recharge. Miles' spirit is strong and genuine. When Miles is present in a group setting, I know that wisdom will be shared and people will be accepted for who they are.

I cannot say enough just how grateful I am to know Miles and to be even a small part of his journey in adolescence and young adulthood. He has a bright future ahead of him and he will make this world a better, more loving, and gracious place. He is already doing that.

If you have any questions about this recommendation, please call me at 270-579-1700.

Peace,

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