

February 20, 2017

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

It was my privilege to work with Brian Kelly for nearly a decade here at Southeastern University. Brian came to us from Bethany University where he had served successfully as a professor for many years. He brought with him years of teaching and administrative experience.

While at Southeastern, Brian served as a Professor of Practical Theology and also as **Assistant Dean** of the College of Christian Ministries and Religion (recently renamed Barnett College of Ministry and Theology). While he was here he helped put together the Master of Arts of Theological Studies program, and he spearheaded the program review for the college of religion for our accrediting agency (SACS), doing an outstanding professional job. The work that he did on this was used as a model for the other colleges' program reviews here at Southeastern University. In his third year here, he sensed that God wanted him and his wife to take over an Assemblies of God congregation that was about to close its church building for lack of attendance. As pastor, he took the church from about ten people to close to eighty in about two years. He did all this while also serving as mentor to his university students, providing evangelistic outreaches and training to local churches, and being a great dad to his three children and loving husband to his lovely wife. Brian's background in working with faculty, strategic planning, and outcomes assessment, along with his longstanding work within the Assemblies of God and its churches, makes him an ideal candidate for the position of **Dean of the Seminary** at AGTS.

Brian was regularly sought out by students for mentorship. He is well respected by his colleagues for his professionalism, his commitment to excellence, and his ability to connect so well with his students. Besides his deep and faithful service to church and academy, he is also an able scholar. He has presented at various conferences, including ones on church multiplication and at the Society for Pentecostal Studies. His training materials for church evangelism are first-rate; they are the very best I have ever seen.

It has been a personal delight for me to have served alongside Brian for several years. In my thirty-eight years' experience of teaching at Southeastern University I don't think I have ever worked with someone with his wide ranging skill set in administrative, pastoral, evangelistic, and teaching ministries. He was a great and supportive colleague. I give him my very highest recommendation and trust that you will give him all due consideration for the open position, **Dean of the Seminary**. You would be getting someone with a deep faith, a true call and commitment to the academy and the local church, and someone who is a consummate professional with a pastoral heart. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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