



## **GUIDE TO WRITING A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

Thank you for writing a letter of recommendation on behalf of an applicant to the 2021-2022 cohort of the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program. To learn more about the program, please visit our website at [pastor.wabash.edu](http://pastor.wabash.edu).

**The deadline for letter submission is April 30, 2020 at midnight.** Please address your one to two-page letter to program Director Rev. Dr. Derek Nelson and send as a pdf attachment to Rachel Hassler via email at [hasslerr@wabash.edu](mailto:hasslerr@wabash.edu). If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hassler via email or phone, 765-361-6327.

In your letter, please comment on the following characteristics, as you perceive them in the applicant.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

We seek younger pastors with 5-10 years of experience in ministry (generally in their 30s to early 40s) who have developed some confidence, optimism, and security in a pastoral role, and who demonstrate high potential for the next two to three decades of Christian ministry.

#### **The WPLP is open to pastors who:**

- Currently serve as a pastor of a Christian congregation in Indiana
- Hold an M.Div. (or equivalent) degree from an accredited seminary
- Have approximately 5-10 years experience in ministry since graduation or ordination
- Will not be enrolled in a doctoral or other degree program during the two years of the WPLP

#### **Criteria for selection will include:**

- Vocational clarity
- Theological acuity necessary to interpret the experience in the program and analyze results
- Appropriate balance of confidence and ability

- Good public speaking and preaching
- A healthy ego necessary for creativity, integrity, and humility
- An ability to listen to and communicate with a diverse group of people from different social and theological backgrounds for the sake of the common good

We hope that the participants will share basic assumptions regarding pastoral collegiality across social and theological divides; the character of constructive engagement and dialogue; the value of pastoral congregational ministry; and the necessity of professional pastoral development.

### **FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS**

➤ **Are you a leader in your congregation?**

*(e.g., senior pastor, council president, board chair, moderator)* Please confirm that the congregation agrees to and will support the applicant's participation in this two-year program, as well as speaking to the characteristics above.

➤ **Are you a regional leader in your communion/denomination?**

*(e.g., regional minister, district superintendent, synod or presbytery official, bishop)* Please verify that the applicant is in good standing with their communion/denomination. Also comment upon the applicant's capacity for leadership in the next two to three decades of Christian ministry and their educational preparation for parish leadership and theological conversation (particularly if the candidate does not hold an M.Div.).

➤ **Have you worked closely with the applicant in some capacity?**

*(e.g., seminary professor, senior minister, colleague, mentor, former employer, another lay leader)* Please provide evidence of and comment upon the applicant's potential for leadership, particularly as leadership is described in the criteria above. Because you know the applicant's ministry well, please elaborate upon what would make him or her an excellent candidate.