

Alderson-Broaddus College
Office of the Chaplain

April 8, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in reference to Ryan Reed, a former student and present friend.

Before coming to Alderson-Broaddus College, he worked with the youth of his home church, First Baptist, Parkersburg, WV. After sensing a call to ministry, Ryan prepared himself by obtaining a B.A. degree in Christian Studies with a Minor in Education at Alderson-Broaddus College and a Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees at Princeton Theological Seminary. In both programs, Ryan excelled as a student and grew as a person. While a student at A-B College, he developed leadership skills through the Student Government Association, serving as President of his class each of his four years of college, Baptist Campus Ministries, Chapel Services, and the A-B Mission Team. Also, Ryan served faithfully with the youth of Taylor County, WV, through Young Life. He organized the 'Renewing the Heart 5KRun/Walk' in order to raise both awareness and funds for the Young Life program. In addition, he received several honors including induction into the Silver Key Honor Society, receiving the Mansburger Award, being chosen as an ACA Citizen Scholar, and being elected the Outstanding Senior in his graduating class. While attending both schools, Ryan had internships in area churches, where successful ministerial leaders mentored him.

People often comment about the warmth of Ryan's personality and his ability to empathize with others. Having unquestioned integrity, he can be trusted and relied upon under any circumstance. His willingness to learn and his desire to grow spiritually enable him to accept responsibility not only for his own ministry but also for assisting the ministry of colleagues. Add to this, Ryan's out-going, confident personality naturally attracts others, giving him the opportunity to lead and influence.

In many contexts, including our trips to Camden, NJ, to work with inner-city children and youth through Urban Promise Ministries, Ryan has shown an ability to connect with children, youth and young adults. He substitute taught for the resident math teacher at the UP academy, teaching basic Algebra, Geometry, and Pre-Calculus. The children and youth gravitate to his open and caring demeanor and his own playful personality. For most of us who have had the opportunity to get to know Ryan well, he has become more than a classmate, student or co-worker. He is a friend.

I have worked closely with Ryan and have confidence that, as one called to ministry, he will provide leadership for you. I recommend him to you without any reservation.

James M. Stinespring, Ph.D.,
Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy