

15 June 2020

## To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written as a reference in support of David M. Hodges. I have known David since September 2005 when he began his studies at Bethel Seminary San Diego in our Master of Arts (Theological Studies) program. Following his graduation in June 2009, David and I have continued our relationship as friends.

David was an excellent student who was consistently diligent and faithful in his academic work. Faculty members uniformly spoke of academic work that was of the highest caliber and that always demonstrated careful, thorough work and thought. He consistently displayed high levels of communication abilities, both oral and written. David is also highly self-motivated and has shown the well-developed research and study competencies that should serve him well in a wide variety of professional vocations. I believe that he will not only do well in these capacities, but will also contribute positively to the overall ethos of any organization of which he is a part.

During David's time at Bethel, I personally had the opportunity to interact with him extensively as a student in both the classroom as well as through independent study. He is one of the finest students that I have had the opportunity to teach. I have observed in David the ability to analyze concepts, situations, and propositions in a manner that always provides an accurate yet unique and fresh perspective. His analytical abilities are coupled with some of the best writing skills I have ever observed in a graduate student. In an independent study that he did with me concerning transformational education, he was able to accurately analyze and describe the deeper philosophical and theological assumptions of a variety of educational theories and methods relevant to the project. David has tremendous intellectual potential as well as the research and writing competencies that will serve him well in any further academic and/or other endeavors he chooses to pursue.

While attending our institution, David also worked in our library. Our librarian communicated to me that David was one of the finest staff members she had ever had. His administrative, organizational, and management skills were of the highest caliber. Both his commitment to the task and his work ethic were outstanding.

I have found David Hodges to be an extremely gifted and talented individual with great potential for outstanding service in whatever vocation he finds himself. I highly recommend him to you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John R. Lillis, Ph.D.

Senior Advisor to the President Provost (until 1 June 2019)