



May 4, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to recommend my colleague and friend, Dr. Joey Peyton, as a professor, scholar, and Christian minister. I have known Dr. Peyton for the past 15 years, and have consistently found him to be a man of the highest integrity, passion, and dedication. In addition to my professional relationship with Dr. Peyton, I have also come to appreciate him as a trusted and professional counselor who offered his expertise to help me, personally, in times of distress or difficult decision making. Despite his very busy schedule, Dr. Peyton has always made time to care for others and to share his extensive life experiences as a way to direct lives, and bring a sense of renewed hope and healing.

As a practical theologian, Dr. Peyton brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. His work on implementing and integrating Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" into personal, work and ministry relationships is foundational and continues to be a key passion in his life. Additionally, he has implemented this philosophy into the training and mentoring of chaplains for military, hospital, and hospice settings. Upon meeting Dr. Peyton, it quickly becomes apparent that his own suffering has fostered in him a deep and genuine sense of compassion and empathy towards others. This personal experience of suffering, coupled with his training as a practical theologian, makes him a key voice in the areas of theology and soul care.

Outside of his work as a professor and chaplain, Dr. Peyton has consistently modeled the need to love others in Christ's name. Frequently, the Peyton family has hosted both college and seminary students in their home during holidays or breaks, giving to them freely and abundantly of their own substance. The Peyton family has sacrificially given of their finances to improve the facilities of the Urshan College/Urshan Graduate School of Theology campus. These financial offerings have also been extended to their colleagues and students as they live by the philosophy that what they have been given is a gift from God to share with others.

I heartily recommend my colleague and friend, Dr. Joey Peyton. If there are further questions, you may contact me at 314-799-5411 (cell) or at annahrens@att.net.

By His Grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Ahrens".

Ann Ahrens, PhD (ABD)

Associate Professor of Music and Worship Studies

Urshan College & Urshan Graduate School of Theology