



HIGHLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST
425 HIGHLAND AVE.
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HIGHLANDCHURCH.ORG

May 30, 2021

ACU Tenure Committee
Benjamin Siburt, DMin.
Highland Church of Christ
425 Highland Ave.
Abilene, TX 79605

Dear Tenure Committee:

Since arriving in Abilene, Dr. Sarah Easter has used her gifts to serve God and the Highland Church in meaningful ways. Dr. Easter's area of academic study provided a helpful perspective for the community outreach efforts engaged by Highland. On several occasions she offered wise council to ministry leaders at Highland. Her combination of thoughtfulness and humility also meant she blessed several ministry efforts at Highland. Dr. Easter served on a team that worked on new expressions of small groups, and she co-chaired the Preaching Minister Search Team at Highland. Serving as the co-chair resulted in a season of many additional hours of work at Highland. The servant leadership role meant significant time in meetings with the search team, listening to the voices of Highland members, contacting candidates, interviewing the candidates, and collaborating with elders and staff to lead the process to a conclusion. Her wisdom and leadership blessed the community of Highland during a time of significant transition.

Dr. Easter's engagement at Highland is a testament to her faith as well as courage. The reality is that older more established churches are structured around families. Many of the pathways to integration in the faith community are organized more for married couples with children. Highland is thankful that Dr. Easter is part of our faith community, and that blessing comes more from her consistent engagement than Highland's hospitality. If she did not take seriously living out her Christian faith in a local congregation, then we might have missed out on ways for Dr. Easter to use her gifts in life at Highland. We give thanks for the diverse ways she has served at Highland throughout her time in Abilene, and how she shares life in Christ with people at Highland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Ben Siburt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Siburt, DMin.
Executive Minister