



July 25, 2016

Abilene Christian University
Tenure and Promotion Committee

Re: Recommendation of Kilnam Cha for Tenure and Promotion

Dear Tenure and Promotion Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to recommend that our colleague Kilnam Cha receive tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. As you know, Kilnam has served in the Department of Bible, Missions and Ministry for more than five years, and during that time he has made numerous valuable contributions to the life of the university and has had a formative influence on many of the students who have crossed his path. While this letter will address primarily Kilnam's scholarship and collegiality—the areas in which I have some experience with him—I fully believe he exhibits excellence in all facets of the committee's inquiry, and I suggest that he would be a valued long-term member of the faculty at ACU.

I've known and worked with Kilnam for several years. Our closest faculty interactions arise in a series of panel presentations he and I have co-led at the Christian Scholars Conference, first in the summer of 2015 in Abilene, and then again this past summer in Nashville. Kilnam has been the driving force behind these panels, which have centered on the theme, "The Bible, Justice, and Law." Due to Kilnam's efforts and expansive network, we have attracted scholars from a host of diverse fields: Old Testament, New Testament, Social Work, Law, Business, Economics, Theology, and Ministry, to name several. Without his drive and ability to reach across disciplines, I do not believe the panels would have come together as successfully as they have.

These panel presentations fit two of the tenure and promotion criteria perfectly: collegiality and scholarship. As to collegiality, the panel discussions are significant evidence that Kilnam is committed to approaching a large question ("what is the relationship between the Bible and justice?") from an interdisciplinary perspective. Indeed, it would be impossible to address this question from only one vantage point, and in our initial meetings on the subject, Kilnam quickly noted that attempting to answer the question in a multi-vocal community of scholars is better than a single voice purporting to offer a definitive word. In these panel discussions, he is warm, genial, supportive, and formative. He is the sort of colleague with which one would want to spend a career.

The panel discussions are evidence of Kilnam's approach to scholarship as well. Initially, he has always sought scholars who could contribute to the justice discussion at a high level. He is interested in quality contributions, rather than the number of panel members. To that end, the

desired outcome of the panels is a published collection of essays, and he has already begun discussions with various outlets for that possibility. Second, and more significantly, Kilnam wants the scholarship on the CSC panels to be not only excellent contributions to the academic literature, but also to generate ideas that are capable of being put into practice. He has constantly reminded me that our discussions of biblical justice need to incorporate the insights of social workers, lawyers, ministers, and others who are immersed in communities of practice, given that they are often the people who are on the front lines of the justice battle, so to speak. In other words, the scholarship of justice must engage with people where they are in life; it cannot remain abstract. In this sense, Kilnam's approach to scholarship is consonant with how we have approached the subject of biblical justice as a topic of study and discussion: in our panels we have emphasized repeatedly that unlike Platonic justice or the justice discussions generated by other intellectual traditions, biblical justice is embodied and practiced, not merely intellectualized.

I will conclude this recommendation by stating that Kilnam Cha is the sort of person who makes me want to be a better Christian, husband, father, teacher, scholar, and friend. When I leave his presence, I am always happy, having been blessed by a genuine friend and colleague. He and his wife have hosted my family in their house multiple times and blessed us with their gift of generous hospitality. I have also been impressed with his recurring trips to Asia, where he leads students to experience Chinese and Korean expressions of Christianity. He is the sort of colleague we need at ACU for a long time in the future, and I am hopeful this committee will grant him tenure and promotion.

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have about this letter of commendation or my experiences with Kilnam.

Sincerely,



Andrew Little