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To Whom It May Concern,

I met Reverend Anthony Lorenzen in early 2016 when I attended Hopedale Unitarian Parish (HUP) as a visitor, and was immediately drawn to his preaching and sense of social justice. His sermons were timely and scholarly, linking together historical circumstances, theological concepts, and personal conduct, in order to illuminate the path of social justice ministry. I was intellectually and spiritually moved by his preaching and decided to become a member at HUP to be part of the dynamic vision he articulated of a beloved community engaged in the mission of social justice. However, before HUP could embrace social justice ministry, the congregation needed to articulate its mission and transform outdated congregational systems.

Rev. Lorenzen is very knowledgeable in the workings of congregational systems and set about educating the congregation by incorporating information into sermons and newsletter articles, and organizing learning opportunities, both within and without the congregation, for congregants to better understand the current dysfunction and learn new ways. In this endeavor, Rev. Lorenzen's approach was to focus on the positive and not give any energy to the negative. He generously highlighted and affirmed any actions by members or committees to move the congregation towards healthy functioning. He courageously supported the Lifespan Faith Development Team as they sought to move from the dying Sunday school model and embrace whole congregation worship. He encouraged the merging of committees that had been in separate silos, each addressing aspects of worship, into one team that improved communication and built community. As a participant in these team meetings, as well as briefly working as the acting office administrator, I witnessed Rev. Lorenzen's capacity to brainstorm ideas and utilize the synergy of the group.

I have the utmost respect for Rev. Lorenzen's forward-thinking vision, but if I had to name a growing edge it would be that he is often so far ahead of where many people are and is overly optimistic about how quickly people can change. Despite this blind spot, Rev. Lorenzen has a visibly joyous and exuberant personality. He delights in activities that bring people together, from cooperative board game nights, to geocaching, Operation Turkey Sandwich, and the monthly community meal. He also loves to share ideas and resources, which is particularly evident in the social media that he has created for HUP. On a daily basis, songs, books, and movies are shared that reveal Rev. Lorenzen's optimism.

Without hesitation, I recommend Rev. Lorenzen for any position that requires a knowledgeable and skillful optimist to lead an organization on a mission to improve the world.

Sincerely,

Janet S. Davis