

Dan Kotansky's reference for Michael Kennedy

November 22, 2004

My Work Experience with Michael Kennedy

First, I would like to start this letter by saying that Michael is a deeply committed, spiritually-seeking educator. As such, he is extremely well-organized, well-prepared, punctual and hardworking. He has not missed a Christian Education meeting, LOGOS Board meeting or other "required" meeting that I know of throughout 2004. Besides coordinating and directing, he's not afraid to "roll up his sleeves" and take over a sinking ship or see things finished. Examples of these are:

1. When he took over the Confirmation class and saw it through to completion in the spring of 2004.
2. When he phoned congregation members himself to try to fill LOGOS Director and Co-director positions.

Michael was becoming deeply intertwined in our church until July of 2004 when he had to seek a more "complete" position in Shelley, Idaho. He was becoming "plugged-in" to every facet of the Christian Education Committee: Preschool, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, youth (helping with the discussion group of "The Passion of The Christ" movie), LOGOS (starting a worship service, which for some kids may have been their first-ever Sanctuary Service) and for young adults (meeting at the Director of Youth's house with interested couples, teaching Love and Logic—a young parents' class on LOGOS Tuesday nights, and leading last fall his young adults class on Friday nights, which sadly fell apart after one of the member's untimely death). I miss Michael's full-time presence in our church and I'm sure he misses his congregational relationships because of it.

New items Michael has started include his Adult Education Curriculum Christian Education Subcommittee, which has made our Christian Education Committee meetings more efficient and meaningful; and his LOGOS worship services where he really tries to make the kids "understand" worship. Both of these have been successful.

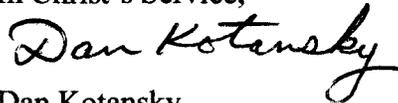
Specifically, over 2004, Michael facilitated LOGOS Board meetings, led the Adult Education Curriculum Sub Committee, completed Adult Education Brochures for our church and contributed newsletter articles. He scheduled, planned, organized and helped lead two Sunday School/LOGOS Teacher Training Workshops, a LOGOS Parents' meeting and was "Dinner Dean" making the announcements for LOGOS in the spring of 2004.

Michael taught four adult Sunday School or LOGOS classes: "Discerning God's Call"; "Empowering Couples"; "Parenting with Love and Logic"; and "A Purpose-Driven Life."

Michael has tried very hard to learn our budget/approval process—this has been cumbersome at first for him but, he now follows it and has kept expenses in check.

Basically, over this year Michael has been the glue that held Christian Education together, not me nor any other one person. We had few positive responses for LOGOS Director and Co-director—Michael found them, otherwise LOGOS would not have kicked off this fall. Michael kept everything “a float” in Christian Education this year—he was the lifeboat. If he didn't get all 100% of his many tasks completed, it's probably because he was too busy baling water of the boats, between Confirmation, Adult Education, and LOGOS.

In Christ's Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Kotansky".

Dan Kotansky
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