

October 5, 2023

Pastor Search Committee
Conowingo Baptist Church
151 Rock Springs Road
Conowingo, MD 21918

Dear Friends:

It is a great joy for me to submit a recommendation for Rev. Curtis Strange, a request that I received today. I hope that my immediate reply demonstrates my confidence in Curtis and my enthusiastic recommendation that your congregation give him your most prayerful consideration.

Curtis and his family have been great friends to my family and me for more than twenty years. We met at Southern Seminary where Curtis and I were students. I was on staff at a large church coordinating the internships from the seminary. Curtis was recruited to serve that church in its student ministry. When I accepted a call to pastor a church in Florida and an opportunity was presented to call an assistant pastor to join me, Curtis was the first person I contacted. That proved to be one of the best decisions made during my tenure there. He proved to be capable and trustworthy through seasons of both trial and triumph. When the need for an associate was presented again at the church I now pastor, the first person I called was Curtis Strange. The five years serving together here brought clarity and certainty to the call upon Curtis' life for pulpit ministry. So certain was our church family of this that we committed to support him further by pledging to fund his seminary education in its entirety to prepare him for such a call as this.

The Stranges are a great family who desire to serve the Lord wherever He may call them. I know Curtis to be a man who is committed to the Bible as God's inerrant Word, who embraces the doctrines held in common by Southern Baptists, and who is committed to Southern Baptist missions. He loves people and wants to help people love and serve better their Savior.

I'm delighted to give Curtis my most heartfelt recommendation. I pray that the Lord will give your congregation great wisdom as you consider him for this crucial position of ministry.

May the Lord bless all you do to glorify Him and extend His Kingdom.

With Sincere Love,
Steven H. Smartt, D.Min.
Senior Pastor