

Dear Brothers and fellow leaders,

I am writing to express my interest in the ministry position with your church family. My wife, Laura, and I have a lifetime of pastoral experience from serving small congregations in the US, serving as a church planter in France, serving as a staff member in large churches and to leading mission teams to both Africa and France. We have dedicated our lives to serving the Kingdom wherever God leads us. We have two adult sons living here in Sullivan, Missouri where we have ministered since 2016. One son serves on the staff of the newly formed Ridge Church of Sullivan and our other son is a loan coordinator at a local bank. Both are tremendous leaders and strive to serve Christ with their gifts. The Ridge was formed when we merged our church (Sullivan Christian Church) with them. I believe that with the church now strong, united and effectively ministering to our community we are ready for our next challenge and calling. I believe I can effectively preach, teach and lead a congregation like yours. Nothing is more fulfilling me than evangelizing the lost, encouraging the hopeless, equipping the saints and enjoying the blessing of ministry.

Although my personal comfort would be to sit back and enjoy life, I know my true joy is sharing the gospel and seeing God's church grow. I have been drawn to ministry my whole life and know that only when one is serving Christ whole-heartedly with his God-given gifts will one find true peace and fulfillment. I believe my extensive pastoral experience, coupled with my commitment to discipleship to the next generation enables me to connect with all generations in the church body. I am eager to inspire and mentor young adults, equipping them to serve effectively in their future ministries, and at the same time encouraging older generations to continue to minister and lead by example. My life's verse is Second Timothy 2:2;

"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."

Throughout my years of ministry in the local church, I have written, taught, and incorporated several educational classes, including Apologetics, NT and OT surveys, and Church History, into the discipleship of the congregation. I believe the local church isn't only a place of worship and fellowship but a place to prepare God's people to be thinking Christians who are able to give a logical defense for their faith. With today's technology and tools, even the smallest of churches can have a worldwide impact for the Kingdom.

I would love the opportunity to sit down informally or formally with you. There are already many ties to McKnight Crossing and myself. I do have family in the area, my nephew Ross Brown and his family attend McKnight Crossing, Philip Matheny and I have worked for the same mission organization. After looking over your website I believe we hold the same high view of what it means to be a biblically based church, yet without the ties to traditional American church culture. (So difficult to remain biblical yet relevant to our culture, you seem to have done that well). I have led Griefshare for our local funeral home in our community and our church for last few years. Also, we have a connection to France. In fact, we are heading there in April to visit

our church in Poitiers and our friends there. When I contacted Craig Young to visit his work in Marseille. He reminded me that we had met years ago. It just seems like we should at least get to know each other and see if God is leading us to minister alongside you.

In Christ's name,

John Blackmore



BOND CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my honor to recommend John Blackmore for a Senior Minister position. Over the past two decades, I have had the privilege of serving alongside John in ministry contexts, including on staff at Cornerstone Christian Church (2002–2004), as Deans and faculty at Bond Christian Service Camp, and in his leadership on multiple mission trips to Africa—one of which my wife and daughter attended under his guidance. In each of these roles, John's faith, servant-hearted leadership, and ability to inspire others have left a lasting impression.

John is one of the most gifted communicators I know. His sermons are biblically sound and practical, blending Scripture, personal anecdotes, and real-world application in ways that are both engaging and transformative. Beyond the pulpit, John excels at meaningful, one-on-one conversations, serving as a mentor, counselor, and encourager to those in his care.

John's life is marked by integrity, humility, and a Christ-like spirit. Faithfully married to his wife, Laura, for over 30 years, they have raised two outstanding sons who reflect the strong values of their family. His example as a father, husband, and leader is a testament to his character and faith.

His global mission work, particularly in France and Africa, has shaped his ability to minister across cultural and generational divides. These experiences, coupled with his fluency in French, highlight his commitment to taking the Gospel to all nations, a passion he carries into every ministry context.

One of John's greatest strengths is his steady leadership in challenging times. Whether navigating ministry decisions or offering counsel to those in need, John brings wisdom, grace, and a calming presence that fosters unity and spiritual growth. His ability to lead with compassion and conviction is evident in all he does.

I am confident that John would be an incredible blessing to any church seeking a Senior Minister. His love for God, his passion for people, and his unwavering commitment to the Gospel make him an exceptional candidate. John is more than a pastor—he is a shepherd, a mentor, and a leader who deeply cares about guiding others into a closer relationship with Christ.

Thank you for considering John Blackmore for this position. I wholeheartedly endorse him and am excited to see the impact he will have in serving your congregation. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss my experiences with John or his qualifications further.

Sincerely,

Jim Quick

Executive Director

Bond Christian Service Camp

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January 10, 2025

To whom it may concern,

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for John Blackmore. I have known John for over 13 years, during which time he has been a pivotal figure in my personal faith journey. Not only did John serve as my lead pastor at Bethalto Christian Church, where I had the privilege of working alongside him as the worship leader, but he has also been a mentor, friend, and spiritual guide who has shaped me in countless ways.

John has a deep, ever-growing knowledge of the Bible, but what truly sets him apart is the way he translates that knowledge into practical and meaningful teaching. Throughout our time together, John constantly sought to learn and grow, always humbling himself to seek wise counsel when it came to theological teaching. This humility, combined with his passion for biblical truth, makes him an exceptional teacher and leader. When I was in my early 20s, John poured into my life in a way that forever changed me. He never treated me like a project or a lesser individual, but instead, as a young person full of potential. I have no doubt that he will bring the same care and those under his leadership, helping them grow in their spiritual lives.

One of the most significant aspects of John's mentorship was the weekly devotional meetings we had. Every Monday morning, I would join him in his office for a time of learning and reflection, whether through scripture, devotions, or the teachings of other communicators. These sessions were invaluable to my growth, but perhaps the most impactful lesson I learned from John was through his example. The way he lived his life—his integrity, his humility, and his unwavering commitment to Christ—taught me more than words ever could. In watching John navigate life's challenges, I saw firsthand what it means to have a relationship with Jesus at a practical, everyday level.

I am confident that John Blackmore will be a tremendous asset to your organization. His heart for people, his dedication to the truth of scripture, and his ability to mentor and guide others make him an outstanding candidate for this position. I wholeheartedly recommend him for this role, and I know that anyone under his leadership will be blessed by his presence and leadership.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 618-670-3250 or aaronkellim@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Aaron Kellim

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend John Blackmore for consideration as a minister to your congregation.

I am Paul Daniels, a missionary with Team Expansion serving in Poitiers, France. I have also served in various other ministries through the years in youth ministry, short-term missions and teaching French and science in a private Christian school. While I have worked with many people over the course of my ministry career, John Blackmore stands out as a man of God and someone I would gladly work with again.

I first met John in 1984 as a fellow student at Saint Louis Christian College in Florissant, Missouri. He was eager to learn as much as possible to help people understand the Gospel.

That

led him and his wife Laura to serve in the mission field in France with Team Expansion from 1990 to 2000 when family needs in the USA made it necessary for them to return. I learned a lot from John while serving as a missionary apprentice from September 1996 to May 1997 in Poitiers, France.

France has a well-deserved reputation as a difficult mission field that destroys missionaries. But John showed incredible faith in God, determination, good humor and resolve to love and reach the French and others around him regardless of the challenges.

For example, David was an American university student who John recruited to help him coach the French baseball club. I also befriended David since we lived in the same apartment building. He was an atheist when we first met but as time went on, we realized he was actually a preacher's kid who was very disappointed with God because of how he had seen his parents treated by different churches. Between John and me, we were able to help him work through his anger and disappointment. David rededicated his life to Christ on Easter Sunday. He eventually went to seminary and today serves together with his wife in campus ministry.

Claude was a French physician and an atheist who regularly belittled his wife for taking their kids to the church in Poitiers. But John befriended him, and over time helped Claude see that God was indeed real and had a plan for his life. Claude was baptized into Christ near the end of John and Laura's ministry in France.

Since 2000, John has served enthusiastically in various local church ministries in Illinois, Florida and Missouri. He has also been involved in many short-term mission trips to Uganda, Senegal and Native American missions. It is a testament to John's faith and integrity that his son Matthew has chosen to serve the Lord as a minister as well.

I am confident that John would be a great asset for your church. He brings along a wealth of experience both in the USA and foreign missions to lead and train your congregation to be the priesthood of all believers and live out the Gospel for the glory of the Lord so that more come to Christ.

Since a letter of recommendation is just a snapshot, if you need more information or specific examples, please feel free to contact me. My email address is pdaniels@teamexpansion.org and

my USA cell phone number is 502-387-4611 which is ported to Amazon Phone so that you can call or text me for free. Texting is probably the best option to arrange a time to call since there is a 7-hour time difference between the Central time zone and France.

Again, I highly recommend John as a godly man who cannot only teach the Word of God but who lives it out in his daily life and in his family.

Blessings in your church to serve and lift up Christ as the hope for all people!

For the glory of God!

Paul Daniels

January 7, 2025

Church Leadership:

It is without hesitation that I write this letter of recommendation for John Blackmore. I have known John for over eight years. I was part of the eldership that called John to the senior pastor role at Sullivan Christian Church. He demonstrated his humility when he decided to step out of the senior pastor role and lead Sullivan Christian Church to a merger with the Ridge Church of Sullivan. He was instrumental in leading the effort to merge two churches to better serve God's kingdom in the Sullivan area.

As we were merging the two Churches, John believed he would be able to minister without being in the senior preaching/teaching role. I believe John came to the realization that it would be better to use his gifts as a teacher/preacher and decided to step away from the newly merged Church.

I know him as an accomplished teacher of the scriptures and the history of the time the scriptures were written. My knowledge of the scriptures and the history associated with the scriptures has greatly increased due to John's teachings. He encouraged me to become a Sunday School teacher for our youth and I have grown immensely through preparing to teach.

John deeply cares for anyone he comes in contact with. He is very generous in helping people in their time of need. He and his wife Laura have opened their home to those in need and helped them to get back on their feet.

I believe John would be a good a good choice for any Church looking for a Senior Minister. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, my email is schwarms@msn.com and my phone number is 573-205-9106.

SINCERELY,

Lony Schwan

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