



The Episcopal Diocese of Florida

The Rev. Dr. J. Allison DeFoor, II
Canon to the Ordinary

February 27, 2023

St. Matthew's Anglican Church
135 First Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M4M 1W9
Canada

Dear Rev. Dr. Catherine Sider Hamilton,

This letter is written to provide a reference on behalf of the Rev. Joshua Loewen-Samuels who I have known since 2018. As the Canon to the Ordinary, I personally oversaw his service in the Episcopal Diocese of Florida as a postulant, deacon, and priest (curate).

Joshua is a good advertisement for the Gospel. He was active in parishes both in Jacksonville and Gainesville where his interest in urban ministry opened doors to frontline service to the poor and downtrodden, as well as to college students and working professionals.

We especially appreciated Joshua's entrepreneurialism, his willingness to learn from his mistakes, and openness to trying new things. For example, in his first year of service Joshua organized a public lecture series at his parish featuring biblical scholar Richard B. Hays. Joshua's heart for pastoral care and evangelism also served him well in the Santa Fe region where he served as a supply priest.

We particularly appreciated Joshua's vision for investing in young people and families; he and I share an enthusiasm for classical education as an extension of the local parish, and this is an area we had hoped where Joshua could make a long-term impact.

I believe that Joshua has recognizable talent that will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God when deployed in the right setting. More importantly, Joshua has a servant's heart. He was an asset to our Diocese and will be missed. Know that he has my blessing to continue serving under your supervision.

Please be in touch if you have any specific questions.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison DeFoor +". The signature is written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Canon Allison DeFoor

Cc: The Rev. Joshua Loewen-Samuels