

October 14, 2018

Rev. Sara L. McKinley
Director of The Office of Clergy Excellence
The Florida Conference of The United Methodist Church
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Re: Feedback Letter Regarding Candidate, Ms. Sophia Sample

Dear Rev. Sara McKinley,

This letter is intended to assist you and your agents in providing feedback to Ms. Sophia Sample, a candidate, who was interviewed by me on XX/XX/XX as part of the assessment process for an appointment in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) regarding aspects of her psychological evaluation outcome.

This psychologist recognizes that the candidate may benefit from receiving information from the outcome of her evaluation in non-psychological jargon designed to assist her in enhancing, even deepening her self-understanding as it relates to her own unique psychology.

This Feedback Letter does not include recommendations for the candidate as made by the MAS in that recommendations, if any, are made to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry or other agents of the UMC, who will make specific recommendations, if any, to the candidate following her interview with the committee.

One may also wish to bear in mind that: 1) the feedback provided is based on the sum of information made available to me at the time of the testing, 2) hypotheses made from these data are not infallible, and 3) they are limited to the relative time frame that the evaluation was conducted. Thus, while it may be true that some of the hypotheses regarding the candidate in this feedback letter may be applicable years from now (as they are enduring features of one's personality), others may only be applicable to a shorter duration.

It may be helpful for Ms. Sample to know the following:

She appears to be a gifted musician and someone who is well-liked in her church. She is also someone who is given to overworking herself beyond healthy boundaries, something that is a matter of concern.

Ms. Sample's approach to her psychological evaluation was conflictual. She appeared to freely offer traumatizing situations and beliefs of her childhood, a history of experiencing significant behavioral health symptoms, and previous and current behavioral health treatments. However, the candidate's approach to her psychological testing and her clinical interview was much more guarded.

It would help her to know that there are times when she may feel pressured internally to the extent that she loses some insight into how she is observed by others and that during these moments she may become "intense" and "overwhelming" (something that she may also experience as a negative feeling).

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From the desk of Dr. Royce Jalazo

Letter to Rev. Sara McKinley, dated 10/14/18

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She has self-reported that she takes psychotropic medications at this time “as a result of [her] [ministry] burnout time, for focus, and clinical hyperactivity at night.” She was also observed to become upset during her clinical interview during which time she appeared anxious, irritable, and defensive.

The candidate gave the overall impression of someone who has worked hard spiritually and emotionally to grow to her current place and that she may feel somewhat slighted and hurt when it is suggested that she may have areas of continued exploration and growth psychologically and emotionally.

Perhaps such information may make her feel that all her hard work and efforts in overcoming significant symptoms was not fully recognized or appreciated or it may be too painful to believe that there is more growth to be done. Mr. Sample may wish to know that she is in good company as all people can benefit from continued growth.