

To the Elders and Hiring Committee at Highland,

Thanks so much for taking the time to look through my portfolio and resume! When I heard James was leaving, I was bummed for Highland, as I know he and Morgan have been such an amazing addition to HCC! But Jordan and I also saw a possible answer to our prayers we have been praying for the last two years: for us to be able to move back to where I grew up, and raise our boys close to their grandparents.

When we left Maryland Community Church just over two years ago, it was hard because we were closer to family then we had ever been, but we knew that getting the call to move up to North West Indiana and be a part of LifeWell: A Christian Church was more than just coincidental - it was a job tailored perfectly for my skillset. The LORD brought it to us at a time when we needed it most. So we packed up our bags and moved to the north half of the state to help LifeWell move forward in their ministry goals.

Not wanting to leave Terre Haute at the time, I remember having conversations with the LORD and with Jordan that I was willing to move up to LifeWell for two years. This would allow us to help LifeWell reach their ministry goals, set them up well for the next step in their ministry, and allow us time to see where God was moving us next.

So over the last two years we have been praying that the LORD would help us find a way back to southern Indiana/Illinois to be back closer to my family. So when James called me to let me know about his departure, I felt in my gut that the LORD was moving.

It seemed more than coincidence that James called and told me that he would be finished up at Highland around the time we would be seriously considering moving as it would be past our ministry goal completions and our two year commitment.

I believe that the LORD has been preparing us for a move back to "middle of nowhere" for a while. If the opportunity to work at Highland had arisen when we were looking for jobs back at the end of 2019/beginning of 2020, we wouldn't have considered it as my wife, Jordan, didn't feel she would do well moving to such a small community after living in cities her entire life. But after moving to Terre Haute and experiencing what life there felt like, and getting to experience life closer to family, her heart was open much more to the idea of moving to a smaller town. After moving up to North West Indiana and being apart from family, the desire for her to be close is more of a desire than it ever has been.

The LORD has been preparing me as I have picked up a vast amount of skills over the last 10 years, and I have had the opportunity to see ministry happen differently at every church I've been at. Ministry happens differently in small towns than it does in the city - or the west coast for that matter. Ministry is different at well established churches verses churches that are 5 years old or younger. I have seen both sides of each

spectrum. The needs of those ministries have also allowed me to hone many different skills along the way as you can see in my resume.

So here I am, writing to the church that sent me into ministry to consider me so I can do for others what that church did for me: be ministered to, and send those who call Highland their home out to minister. It would mean so much to me to pour into the area that I grew up in. I pray the LORD leads you as he has been leading us in this journey, and gives you clarity as you look at who and what you need in this next chapter at Highland.

Thanks for your consideration,
Daniel Baker