First Christian Church
Cuyahoga Falls

February 5, 2025

To the Discernment Working Group of the Living Water Association:

On behalf of First Christian Church of Cuyahoga Falls, it is my great joy to write this letter of support for Mitchell Amago as he begins a journey toward ordination in the United Church of Christ.

Our congregation has a long and proud history of nurturing and supporting individuals as they discern their call to ministry. Historically, these candidates were called to ordination in the Disciples of Christ. Mitch represents our first opportunity to support a candidate in the UCC process. We see this as a beautiful representation of the fullness of God's Kin-dom and a wonderful outworking of our Federated (DOC/UCC) identity.

Mitch has been an active member of our faith community for just over a year, and in that time, he has demonstrated exceptional gifts for ministry and a deep commitment to serving God's people. Mitch has already shared his gifts with our congregation in meaningful ways. He has preached before our community, and his thoughtful, humorous, and Spirit-filled message was met with resounding positivity. His presence among us has been a blessing, and we wholeheartedly affirm his call to ordained ministry.

Recently, Mitch shared his call story during a congregational meeting. His authenticity, vulnerability, and passion for ministry moved all who were present. After hearing his story, the gathered community voted unanimously to affirm his call and commit to partnering with him as he moves forward in the ordination process. This decision reflects the confidence we have in Mitch's readiness for ministry and our belief in the impact he will make as an ordained minister in the UCC.

Mitch embodies the qualities we hope to see in those who serve the church: a compassionate heart, a curious mind, and a steadfast spirit. His presence enriches our community, and we are excited to walk alongside him as he continues to discern and develop his gifts. We firmly believe that Mitch will be a faithful and effective servant of Christ in ordained ministry, and we are proud to support him in this journey.

Thank you for your prayerful discernment and care as you consider Mitch's call to ministry. Please know that First Christian Church of Cuyahoga Falls stands ready to support him in any way we can. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

With great enthusiasm and hope,

Gary Medkeff
Vision & Vitality (Council) Chair

Joy Fenton-Jones
Pastor

Cc: Mitchell Amago, Elena Larsson, Michael Howard, Kellie Ramirez