

Ethan Laster - 3 References

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They all tell approximately the same good story and the same potential concerns.

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Reference for Nathan Laster April 2024.docx

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Reference for Nathan Laster – Randy Harris April 24, 2024

I love Ethan,
Quality person.
Quality student.

Grad Ass't for 3 years.
Helped me administratively with the students.

Deep Spiritual Life.
Doing Ph.D on spirituality in the Eastern Church.

Smart.
Thoughtful.

Wonderful Church people.
Gets ministry.
Sarah is gets ministry and people.

Has not had many tests in crises.
Not the charismatic type.
Would do well with supportive leaders.

Prone to depression. Nothing serious.
Inexperience is the big weakness.

Turned down professorship at York. This says a lot about his life direction.

Should continue to do adjunct online.
Won't neglect the work.
I trust him a lot.

Needs a leadership to let him grow.
Utterly teachable!

Ethan's potential concern – lack of staff.

Can't say he won't jump to the University in 5 years, but will certainly work now as if he won't.

Reference for Nathan Laster – Mike Brown (LaFayette Church) April 24, 2024

5+ years at Lafayette.

If I could give a bad reference, I would. Hoping he doesn't get the position, because we don't want to see them go!

I couldn't say more good about Ethan.

Similar to Kyle at LaFayette, but more introverted. A 50 year old in a 30 year old body!

Very relational. Gets church work. Gets church structure and dynamics.

Attitude – “I am here. Whatever you need.”

Though academically brilliant, understands the importance of putting knowledge into practice.

Sarah – runs woman's ministry. Both very good with Seniors

Some fears of burn out of young ministers. Seeing it everywhere. Must ask – How do we keep him fresh for long-term? How does the system need to adapt to make way for Ethan and others in his demographic?

He is going to most thrive in theological reflection and helping the church to apply the Word of God to the body of Christ.

He is a great question asker. Will ask good theological questions in his teaching.

Not a banner carrier. Will inspire people to carry their banner.

Elders need to allow him time to be deep in the word, asking questions, especially in the first few years.

Noticing – people leaving ministry everywhere. Must empower Nathan to let things fall.

Concern – “Texas Boy” yellow Flag. Always a temptation to go home. Midwest ministry is different from Texas ministry.

Churches need to be creative going forward in caring for staff.

I would not be surprised in 5 years for Harding, for example, to ask him to come and teach.

He needs partners, like Kyle, Jeff K. He needs room to talk through his ministry. He needs room to fail.

Reference for Nathan Laster – Jeff Childers - April 25, 2024

I knew Ethan for the 8 years while he was at ACU.

He did much preaching and teaching for a small rural congregation outside of Abilene, in Winters Texas.

He has good pastoral care skills. He is a good leader. He has good wisdom.

Great with academics. Great at research.

Taught classes at ACU.

Graduate Assistant and admin Assistant.

He has a wise attitude. Able to flow academics and ministry.

Low-key fellow. Not dynamic or charismatic.

Solid. Centered in God. Knows himself. Able to defer himself to the greater cause.

He will have a learning curve for sure.

However, nothing is beneath him.

What do we do to support him long-term?

Offer him ministry retreats.

Avoid isolation.

Find some areas of ministry that are fulfilling.

Will need community. A strong sense of belonging. Allow him to be a part of building around young people. Must alter priorities of church and the way things are done to accommodate people in this demographic.

I would agree with you that he is a step or two ahead of Michael Santiago.