

# References for Jeremy Cagle

The MFBC Pastoral Search Committee asked Jeremy's references to answer the following questions:

## 1. What can you tell us about Jeremy?

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*Jeremy seems to shepherd his family well and give time to his boys. He and his wife are very sweet people, and he seems to be devoted to whatever task he undertakes.*

*He is a serious student of the Bible, a good teacher, husband, and father.*

*Diligent, capable, faithful, and steady leadership. He was creative and provided steady and unifying leadership, particularly during the Covid pandemic. His was one of the few churches to carry out necessary church discipline during the period when nearly all churches were still meeting by zoom. He loves the Word of God and is a faithful proclaimer of that Word.*

*He is an outstanding young man and highly committed to biblical ministry in the church through preaching and counseling.*

*I believe Jeremy is an elder-qualified individual with a Southern-understood sense of humor. He is a good husband and father. He is an attentive friend and loves the Lord's people. He thinks Biblically and loves the Lord.*

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## 2. Why should we call Jeremy to be our Pastor?

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*Good training – Jeremy realized the need for a pastor to have solid, Bible training.*

*He worked hard to complete His Master of Divinity degree from Masters Seminary. Listens to people well – Jeremy is a Proverbs 1:5 kind of guy. When you speak with him, you know he is truly listening to you. I believe this is a character quality that is vital in pastoral ministry. Jeremy listens to his flock, his elders, his family, other pastors, etc. He is a man who thinks before he speaks. Even keeled and calm – Jeremy has shown himself to be a man who faces difficult situations with a good attitude and a calm demeanor. I believe he epitomizes Proverbs 17:27 and Proverbs 21:23. Diligent in studying the Word – In the few interactions that I have had with Jeremy's sermons, he has always been very well prepared. He seems to take great care with how he handles the Word of God. This is one of the most important qualities in any pastor. The way a pastor handles the Word can make or break a church. Balanced – I have witnessed Jeremy not be too quick to*

*make a decision. He tries to remain balanced and hear all sides of an issue. He doesn't gravitate to either "extreme."*

*If you are looking for a pastor who will faithfully teach the Scripture and live a life of integrity, Jeremy would be your man. His wife is also a very helpful partner in his ministry. She is exceptional.*

*If you are looking for a diligent shepherd and an expository preacher who understands his theology and why he believes it, he is your man.*

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**3. Are you aware of anything that would disqualify Jeremy for ministry?**

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*No*

*No disqualifications*

*No*

*I do not know of anything negative about him or his family.*

*I am unaware of any character issue that would prevent Jeremy from any pastoral position. I believe he is worth your time investigating whether he is a good fit for your church.*

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**4. What story could you tell us about Jeremy that would give us an idea of their fitness for ministry?**

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*Over the years I have had conversations with Jeremy about people leaving the church for various reasons (ie. Too strict on COVID, not strict enough on COVID, etc.). Each time I speak with Jeremy he never overreacts or gets angry, even while talking with me in private. He seems to be able to handle conflict resolution and disappointments with a steady spirit.*

*He has patiently endured some mistreatment in ministry and has exhibited a Christ-like attitude through these hardships. When he was on staff at our church our people loved him and his wife and deeply appreciated them.*

*I think this photograph, taken during Covid, illustrates the character and creativity that Jeremy has brought to the ministry as well as any story could.*



*I am unsure I can speak to a specific story regarding his fitness for ministry, but I am familiar with many of his attendees and some storms he has weathered there. I believe the maturity of the members is proof of Jeremy's giftings. Yet, at the same time, the lack of growth in some has a lot to do with many of the cultural factors that existed from the original church – as Jeremy's church is a product of a church split. I have seen Jeremy's humility, patience, and willingness to bear over much in his role as pastor.*

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**5. Do you have any reservations about recommending Jeremy for ministry as a pastor?**

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*No*

*No reservations*

*No*

*Not knowing your church and the dynamics there makes for a difficult question to answer. He would do well – as most pastors do with a solid elder team. When Jeremy arrived, the leadership structure was weak, and the example people had experienced before Jeremy was that of an authoritarian and autocratic leader. This type of group can be challenging to lead, as anything grounded in confidence can be very difficult for people.*

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**6. How would you describe Jeremy's preaching method and style?**

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*I would describe Jeremy's preaching as expository, careful, and generally verse-by-verse. He will also tackle relevant topics within his church.*

*His preaching is expository, verse-by-verse, and theologically sound.*

*Diligent and thorough, clear, plain-spoken.*

*Jeremy is a product of the Master's Seminary; therefore, he knows how to exegete the text well.*

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**7. How would you describe his ability to communicate (Excellent, Good, Etc.)?**

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*Excellent.*

*He is a good communicator. Jeremy is not flashy, but he preaches clearly and well the Word of God.*

*Very Good*

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**8. How well does Jeremy get along with constituents (church members, visitors, fellow clergy, and the community at large)?**

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*He gets along well with everyone as he has a good "bedside manner" and doesn't feel the need to be "right." He also chooses his words carefully.*

*As was mentioned above, Jeremy got along very well with everyone, including the membership and staff when he was at our church.*

*He gets along very well with a wide variety of people.*

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**9. How would you describe Jeremy's work ethic?**

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*In watching Jeremy work from a distance, it has always appeared that he is very diligent and hard working. He seems to manage his time well.*

*Very hard worker*

*Very Diligent*

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**10. What strengths does Jeremy possess?**

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*Preaching, listening, empathy, kindness, hospitable with his time.*

*He is very likeable, a joy to be around, and takes the truth of God's Word seriously without compromising.*

*The character qualities described above.*

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**11. What could Jeremy do more of, less of, or differently to be a more effective minister?**

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*Jeremy's meek demeanor is a strength and I believe that if he keeps this up, especially under pressure, that this character quality will be invaluable to any church.*

*When he was with us, I was encouraging him to set aside his books a bit more and mingle with the people. He loves to study. But on the other hand, while with us, he sought out a group of college students and met with them every Sunday afternoon. His ministry was very effective with this group.*

*Continue to improve as a pulpit expositor of the Word of God.*

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**12. How does Jeremy react under stress?**

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*In a cool-headed way.*

*He is patient under stress and does not overreact. If anything, he puts up with too much.*

*He reacts very well under stress.*

*Jeremy has faced difficult circumstances and maintained his commitment to the ministry and his family.*

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**13. Is Jeremy punctual?**

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Yes

*He is punctual.*

Yes

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**14. What advice would you give us to ensure Jeremy's ministerial success?**

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*Listen well to his balanced approach and know that he is hearing and sincerely considering both sides of the argument. Don't take his calm demeanor as not feeling strongly about his decision.*

*To aid Jeremy's ministerial success I would encourage your church to have a passion for the Word and apply what he teaches. Also, have faith in his leadership and shepherding of the people.*

*To the extent possible, it is wise to protect him from unwarranted criticism.*

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**15. What else should we consider before proceeding with Jeremy?**

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*Meet his family so that you can see what a wonderful picture they are of how a family should operate. I believe he will be a good example to your church families.*

*I would encourage you to move quickly if you are interested in Jeremy. He is a quality man.*

*As stated above, he is a diligent, faithful, and steady pastor.*

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