



SELECT CONTACT
REFERENCES

EMAIL REFERENCES
AVAILABLE FOR

- Previous Pastoral Supervisor
- Staff Member I Have Supervised
- Pastoral Colleague
- Congregation Member
- Young Adult
- Personal Reference

REV. DR.
TONY STIFF

DEAR SEARCH TEAM,

To simplify your search team’s reference checks and to offer your team a chance to see my ministry impact over the past 20 years I have copied recommendations I have received on my LinkedIn page from all my previous congregations. I have asked my previous supervisors, pastoral colleagues, staff I have supervised, congregation members, and millennials to share recommendations so you can get a full 360 of my ministry impact and gifts. Because most of these recommendations are from my LinkedIn page you can be sure they have been composed by the actual person recommending me. If you would like to be added as a contact on my LinkedIn page I am happy to do that. That page address is: www.linkedin.com/in/tonystiff.

As you will see in all the recommendations I have been blessed to have worked with and served wonderful people over my many years of ministry. It has been a great joy to serve these churches. If you would like to follow up with email references I have provided a possible list of ‘types of references’ I can make available in the left column.

SINCERELY,

Anthony J Stiff

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C h u r c h o f S c o t l a n d ,
A b e r d e e n s h i r e



Tony was a real blessing to me and to our congregation as a worship leader, preacher, and friend. His messages were thoughtful and well-presented, and he was always able to connect with the people in the pews.

Rev Dr Robert L. Smith, Pastor of Rubislaw Parish Church of Scotland, Aberdeenshire, (taken from a personal letter to me)

Working with Tony here in Scotland was a joy and a privilege, he is a very skilled practitioner and preacher. He made an immediate impact at our service at the SUE RYDER CENTRE AT DEEVIEW COURT home to many residents with neurological conditions. He is insightful, careful in preparation, and I would recommend him to anyone looking for a speaker or colleague. He has a deeply personal faith in Jesus grounded in scripture and compassionate and thoroughly sensitive in application. He is sorely missed here.



Rev Dr Eddie McKenna, Pastor in the Church of Scotland, Aberdeenshire

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C e n t e r p o i n t
C o m m u n i t y C h u r c h



For over seven [and a half] years now Pastor Tony has served our church family with great skill, love and grace. While we all are very pleased for him and his family in this unique calling of God, we will deeply miss him, Jess, Cali and Liam.

Rev Dr Jim Barstow, Senior Pastor at Centerpoint Community Church, (taken from the brief letter to the congregation)

In my position as a worship director at Centerpoint Community Church, I've worked alongside Tony in ministry for several years. It's not often that someone in ministry is highly academic and also has fantastic relational skills, but Tony is that unique blend. He is highly likable, easy to relate to, extremely well read, relevant to his surrounding culture, and most importantly, a man who loves God.



At Centerpoint, Tony oversaw many different ministries and was able to help them grow--in quality and quantity. His legacy here at the church has been a focus on missions and a raising up of our younger generation.

When he and his family moved to Scotland, they were deeply missed and the loss was felt by the entire congregation. I would highly recommend Tony to anyone!

Julie Battenfield, Director of Worship Arts at Centerpoint Community Church



Pastor Tony has been a tremendous blessing to my spiritual and emotional growth while working together at Centerpoint Community Church. His sermons challenged me to serve others in ways outside my comfort zone and to study Scripture more intently. As I served as elder and now on staff, I witnessed his thoughtfulness in communicating with others and superb conflict management skills when the need arrived. His patience and grace displayed by example, a great trust in God and a man committed to waiting upon the Lord for direction. As one can see from his specialties, Tony had an incredible responsibility within our church body. Not only did he lead each ministry well, each thrived under his care.

Tanya Flores, Director of Women's Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church

My husband, Rod Wurst, and I have served with Reverend Doctor Tony Stiff for the past six years on the Centerpoint Community Church local mission committee - my husband as elder and I serving as needed. During this time, Pastor Tony has developed, coached, and mentored those of us serving on the local mission committee as well as our global mission committee. He led with diplomacy and passion and by example. We learned so much under his guidance. Pastor Tony also provided pastoral supervision for the Young Adult Ministries and Adult Formation (Bible Studies & Teaching) while discipling multi-generations along the way. As an associate pastor, he taught from the pulpit numerous times each year - each message better than the one before. Pastor Tony has demonstrated powerful pastoral skills while delivering the gospel with passion, charisma,



and obvious love for our Lord and Savior. We highly recommend Pastor Tony for any church leadership position he seeks.

Rod and Sharon Wurst, Elder at Centerpoint Community Church over Local Missions and Deacons Chair



Marlena and I have known and worked with Pastor Tony Stiff for over 7 years. Tony is our pastor, friend and leader of Centerpoint Community Church's Global Mission Outreach Team which Marlena and I have the privilege of serving with.

Tony has a passion for bringing the Good News of Christ Jesus to the community he pastors and to the larger world. Tony fulfills this calling through leading, guiding and encouraging the ministries and missionaries he is associated with. Marlena and I have had the opportunity to work with Tony as he led Centerpoint's efforts to establish and grow its Global Mission Adult Teams. Through our work with Tony we know him as a man of God, who through prayer, focus, and perseverance seeks to develop his skills and God's gifts serving in the name of Jesus to glorify the Father. Tony builds effective teams, works well with different personalities, persons of authority and leads with authority. We enjoy working with Tony, learning from him, having fun with him and his family and trust him as our pastor and leader of global mission outreach.

Tony is an experienced, caring, loving pastor loyal to his congregation investing his time, energy, prayer and skills helping us develop as disciples of Christ Jesus. With Tony's help and encouragement Marlena, myself and other members of Centerpoint have been introduced to serving on and leading adult mission teams to Mexico, Haiti and Uganda. Tony's work as a pastor goes well beyond global missions. As our pastor and friend Tony has helped us grow into more mature followers of Christ, stronger disciples with a passion and confidence to share the Good News of Christ Jesus wherever God places us.

In our careers Marlena and I were responsible for leading teams and projects. We looked for individuals like Pastor Tony to be part of our teams. We strongly recommend Tony for church and ministry leadership positions.

John and Marlena Sprague, Director of Men's Ministry and Elder with spouse at Centerpoint Community Church over Global Missions

During 2010 to 2017, I worked closely with Pastor Tony Stiff in the Adult Christian Education (ACE) ministry at Centerpoint. Pastor Tony created a dynamic adult education ministry at our church during his years there. Some of his innovations included the establishment of "best practices" training for lay leaders/teachers, a "covenant statement" to which all lay teachers subscribed, and teacher appreciation events. Pastor Tony also created a "core curriculum" that provided adult education offerings in the areas of Bible study, theology, church history, apologetics, missions, spiritual formation and disciplines, and Christian living (e.g., parenting, finances, marriage, etc.) These classes were offered three times a year during the fall, spring, and summer "semesters." Tony's leadership was instrumental in creating a vibrant ACE ministry that continues at Centerpoint to the present.



In addition to working closely with Pastor Tony on the ACE ministry at Centerpoint, I was able to observe his growth as a preacher and leader in the church. He is a gifted preacher who delivers thoughtful, Biblically-based sermons that our congregation found compelling. In addition to his work in the area of adult education, Pastor Tony also led Centerpoint's mission teams and oversaw the student ministries.

I recommend Pastor Tony unreservedly for any pastoral position for which he is applying. He would be an asset to any church that called him.

David Tyra, Elder at Centerpoint Community Church over Adult Formation Committee



Pastor Tony Stiff is an incredibly intentional and thoughtful leader. He is an advocate for those in need, and is always looking for opportunities to help those around him grow in order to fulfill the call of God on their lives. Pastorally he is available to lend an ear and offer up sound wisdom that comes from years of hands on experience as well as having developed a wealth of knowledge through the pursuit of higher education. He encourages those around him to seek truth and pursue it and is guided by an overwhelming generosity towards all he meets.

Kristin Ball, Director of OneHope College Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church

It is with great pleasure that I give my highest recommendation to Tony Stiff. Having had the privilege of working under Tony for the past two years, I have the unique perspective of speaking to his abilities as a supervisor. Of the numerous strengths that Tony brings to his role, there are two that stand out to me in particular.



Tony possesses the unique ability to engender growth and development in those he manages. He does this primarily by conducting himself in a manner worthy of being emulated. Much of what I have learned from Tony has been through observing the level of excellence by which he performs even the smallest of tasks. In addition, he has graciously coached me through a number of areas that I considered myself to be deficient in when

I first entered into my current role. I believe it says a lot about Tony's ability as a supervisor and teacher that many of the tasks I used to dread, and even fear, are now areas that I find enjoyable.

This leads to what I believe to be Tony's greatest asset—his genuine care for the wellbeing of those he supervises. There has never been a point in our relationship that has caused even the slightest doubt that Tony had my best interest at heart. Having this confidence has been incredibly empowering in an industry that typically offers little in the way of affirmation. The care and support Tony has continuously extended to me allows me to perform my job in the confidence that I can take risks, be creative, and even at times, fail. This has made my experience under Tony's supervision an absolute joy.

In sum, Tony has been an absolute joy to work under. I anticipate that anyone who has the opportunity and privilege to receive his supervision would say the same. He has my utmost respect and strongest recommendation.

Dr. Max Botner, Professor at the University of Frankfurt, Germany and NT Wright's research assistant, former Director of OneHope College Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church



When Tony Stiff joined the staff of Centerpoint Community Church in Winter 2010, I had already been working in my position for several months. It is a testament to Tony's pastoral and managerial skill that I felt in no way impinged upon by the arrival of a new supervisor. Quite the opposite: Under Tony's lead, I was increasingly empowered to perform my role in the Church effectively. Tony adroitly balanced "hands off" and "hands on" approaches, training (and in some cases, retraining) me in

key areas of ministry, while never stifling my unique approach to the job. I can honestly say that I became a better ministry-director under Tony's management. Now that I have moved on to other areas of professional ministry, I look back on my time under his mentorship as a critical season of growth. Many of the skills I learned in my year and half working with Tony have been carried forward into my current vocation (student ministry in the greater Seattle area).

I would highly recommend Tony for any and all positions in ministry and/or Christian education. He will be a major asset to any organization, and that for a simple reason: Not only will Tony execute his own areas of responsibility professionally, he will lift the performance of all those around him as well.

Rev. Steven Tyra (EPC Pastor), PhD Candidate at Baylor University, former Director of OneHope College Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church

Tony was my supervisor as I transitioned into my first full time director position. He mentored me, helped my wife and I feel at home as we moved to a new city and made my time working in ministry under him a blessing. He gave wise insight when I was struggling and firm but loving correction when I needed it. He is a rare combination of a brilliant mind and scholar and fantastic leader and pastor all wrapped into one.



Cameron Pedicord, Director of High School Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church



Tony Stiff is an excellent supervisor. You don't really work for Tony instead you work with Tony on a shared vision. His supervisory style is highly relational, and based on mutual respect. When you come to the table with Tony Stiff you come as an equal. Tony doesn't mandate or dictate, instead he asks questions and helps you make decisions for yourself as would a trusted counselor. When Tony has to step in and give direct requirements it's always measured with kindness and self-control.

Having a high relational capacity and affection for all of his congregants, Tony has his hands in every ministry. Control is not Tony's style. Instead he's a cheerleader and advisor, shaping ministries with encouragement, while still retaining a keen intellect and the capacity to take over and

build thriving ministries when necessary. His affability and humility often mask his brilliance. A committed family man, Tony was able to complete a doctorate in three years while also working as a full-time associate pastor at Centerpoint Community Church in Roseville, California. Simply put Tony is a scholar who still carries himself with grace and an “everyman” aura that allows him to relate to an at-risk teen as well as to a revered theologian.

Some pastors are simply effective preachers, resigned to leading from the pulpit. Tony is that, but much more. He is a pastor in the truest sense, someone who shepherds while gently casting a vision for his flock. He is a mentor, scholar, leader, and preacher, with all the tools to be a great senior pastor.

Michael Chase, Director of Middle School Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church

Tony comes with my highest recommendation. He was my supervisor for several years and he has a knack for inspiring greater work and a grace for navigating the difficulty of ministry. He has a passion for new ideas, and a heart for people. Tony is well suited and well equipped to be a pastor in a variety of contexts. If the opportunity should arise, I would love to work with, work for, or even attend a church in which he was their pastor.



Rev Dave Constance (EPC Pastor), former Director of High School Ministry at Centerpoint Community Church



Serving under Tony for the past two years has been a fantastic experience. Tony was, like any good supervisor, concerned with the details of my ministry while he successfully balanced the line between being a my pastor, supervisor, and friend. Tony granted me enough space to cast and advance my own vision for the Jr. High Ministry but still was able to provide guidance in a very pastoral way. He was always open to hearing every angle of a situation before making a particular decision or offering particular suggestions. I found Tony to be approachable, friendly, as well as being a source of theological, biblical, and pastoral knowledge. Although I will not be working under Tony again, I look forward to future conversations and fellowship with him as brothers in Christ and as friends.

Brandin Francabandera, PhD Candidate at the University of Aberdeen, former Middle School Director at Centerpoint Community Church

Having known Tony for over three years, I continue to be impressed by his heart for ministry. Although he serves a church with a wide range of age groups, Tony excels because of his relatability and desire to forge meaningful relationships. The church family at Centerpoint is continually blessed not only by Tony's selflessness and eagerness to care, but also by his ability to share the gospel in a relevant manner. Tony's leadership has been instrumental in the positive changes that have made Centerpoint a more modern, lively, and inviting place to worship. I am honored to know Tony as my pastor and friend, and I give him my highest recommendation.



David Judy, Millennial at Centerpoint Community Church

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E a s t L a n i e r
C o m m u n i t y C h u r c h

I had the pleasure of working under and alongside Tony as he led our community group, mercy ministry team, and middle and high school youth groups. I saw very clearly his servant's heart as he cared for and led us in those various areas of ministry. I enjoyed the times we shared growing in the Lord during our community group. It was fun to watch Tony interact with, and disciple the kids in the youth group. Also, great advances were made in the mercy aspect of our church's ministry; internally and within the community.



Jonathan Poole, Elder at East Lanier Community Church



Tony has a heart for the poor, and a desire to interact with the postmodern urban community. he has done an excellent job of drawing together and pastoring a group of young couples in his Community Group, and has organized several events for our church to be involved in reaching out to the needs of the community around us. he would fit very well in an urban setting, particularly in a ministry that involves the use of the Arts in impacting the world around it.

David White, Elder at East Lanier Community Church

Tony is uniquely gifted and equipped to preach and teach the Gospel. He has a special heart for Mercy ministry and demonstrates the ability to start and rally others to mercy efforts in the local community. He has effectively led small group ministry in which community/fellowship, worship, teaching, and care giving take place. His passion for Christ, cultural connection, and creative communication will be used by God for the advancement of His kingdom.



Chris Bozeman, Elder at East Lanier Community Church



We had recently moved to Atlanta and had become part of East Lanier Community Church. Our twin daughters were in a new location and feeling quite disconnected. However, they really resonated with Tony and began to look forward to youth group at church. They especially appreciated doubt night, where kids could ask questions about their faith openly and honestly, and get them answered. They also liked meet the parents night, where different parents would come in and share their testimony. Tony's heart for mercy ministry was also very apparent to me. I'd recommend strongly considering Tony for any pastoral vacancy.

Chris Accardy, parent at East Lanier Community Church

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 G r a c e C h r i s t i a n
 F e l l o w s h i p C h u r c h

Anthony served at our church in one way or another for over four years and Grace Christian Fellowship was tremendously blessed by his faithful service. Though Tony fulfilled his Clearwater Christian College and Westminster Theological Seminary internship requirements with us, I know that he would have been doing all he did whether the internship was in place or not!



Tony served alongside of me in our student ministry helping us with our weekly set up, occasionally teaching and offering much help in the overall ministerial direction, and he was also involved with some individual discipleship. On Sunday mornings, he served as one of our head ushers, overseeing communion, offering, seating, etc... Tony has taught at our mid-week adult Bible study as well as a special series on hermeneutics. In addition, he often helped me with our

young adult ministry and taught our young adult Bible study a number of times. Tony was exemplary in all he did at our church and a tremendous asset to our church leadership.

Knowing his willingness to serve, I am sure he did much more than we were even aware.

Rev Heath Watson, Associate Pastor at Grace Christian Fellowship

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N e w L i f e D r e s h e r
P r e s b y t e r i a n C h u r c h



Anthony Stiff was a member of New Life Dresher (PCA), of which I am an associate pastor, throughout the years he attended Westminster Theological Seminary. Besides observing his life and conduct as an active and involved member, I also had the opportunity to serve as Anthony's internship advisor and mentor. During that time, Anthony consistently displayed Godly character and spiritual wisdom in both his personal life and in formal ministry. He is a man of great integrity and wisdom. I have seen him handle himself with maturity and compassion as he ministered in both formal and informal settings. Anthony served our church faithfully as a volunteer youth leader, college age leader, and as an adult education teacher. He always leads with Kingdom vision!

Anthony is steadfast in his faith, and it is foundational to all that he undertakes. He has clearly made his marriage a priority, seeking to be used by God in his wife's life, as well as faithfully supporting and being involved in her ministry involvements. I believe Anthony's gentle nature coupled with his passionate love for the Kingdom of God are a great ministry combination.

Anthony is passionate about faithfully understanding Scripture, passing that understanding on, and then seeing, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that understanding change and transform lives. He is astute in his theology and has learned that the best theology results in the greatest relevance and power to see someone transformed into the image of Christ.

I would enthusiastically recommend Anthony to serve in pastoral ministry believing he would be a tremendous asset in most ministry settings. I myself have considered partnering with him in church planting!

Rev Mike Hollenbach, Associate Pastor at New Life Dresher

I have known Anthony for about four years and was able to partake in his Bible study "Life Without Walls" during that time. I was blessed by his leadership during this time. He was very good at getting to know the people in the group and engaging us by pointing out Biblical truths from scripture and engaging with us on how that needs to effect our lives.

I have appreciated Tony's care as a friend, his honesty, and his willingness to challenge me. I would definitely recommend him for a pastoral job.



Kevin Krasinski, Millennial at New Life Dresher