



Jill: The enclosed envelope is the one you attached to your application. I have included this copy of the Isle of Faith letter for you to read.  
 Skip Parvin, Pastor

United Methodist Church

Love Yz  
 S. King

To Those Considering Making Jill Ann Heckert a Part of Their Teaching Team:

When Jill Ann Heckert contacted me about writing a letter of recommendation for her, I thought "How am I going to do this without the people reading thinking, 'C'mon that's just too good to be true.'" Well, Jill is an amazing person and a consummate professional whose whole life is centered in bringing love alive through the power of music. I had the privilege of working with her for over a decade as the Senior Pastor of Tuskawilla United Methodist Church in Casselberry, Florida where she was my Director of Music Ministries. I had only been the Pastor at Tuskawilla for a few weeks when I realized that I had something special in Jill. At the time I arrived at the church she was only working part time and one of my first official acts as Pastor was to ask the church to bring her into full time status as soon as possible. She is a wonderful leader. She is well organized, articulate and will do whatever it takes to get a job done. She is one of the most creative people I know and that extends beyond her music to every aspect of her life. I have never known a person who could play as many instruments with as much proficiency as she. She has a range of voice and vocal styles that is simply amazing. I personally prefer hearing her sing the Blues, but she once brought me to tears with her interpretation of the *Ave Maria*. She sees whatever she is doing as a calling and a sacred trust and that, also, is reflected in every aspect of her life. For this reason I think she would make a wonderful teacher. Children adore her. She somehow managed to have a personal relationship with every child who walked through our doors. Parents admire her and deeply respect her. She had a waiting list of children who wanted to take lessons with "Miss Jill" on everything from the violin to the electric guitar. She touched the lives of generations of children while I was the Pastor of Tuscawilla UMC. She always saw herself as part of a team and viewed her work with children in the context of the big picture of ministry to the whole community of faith. I can point to many adults whose lives have been transformed because Jill first ministered to their children and then to them..

Beyond this, Jill has a sense of loyalty and commitment that is unparalleled. In the year before I arrived at Tuskawilla, the church went through a maelstrom of tribulation. Many staff members chose to move on before I moved there. Jill stayed, constantly striving to make things better. I will be eternally grateful to her for that. In the midst of all the hurt and resentment, watching many people she loved leave the church, she held her connection to the people she served as her highest value. That is rare in today's world. I will guarantee that if you make her a part of your teaching team you will eventually come to regard that decision as one of the best that you have ever made.