

Search Committee Questions for References

A search committee recently asked these questions of the references of its potential cantorial candidates.

1. How long have you known _____?
2. As far as you know does _____ have clear personal and professional boundaries? i.e. Can s/he say no when too many demands are put upon her/his personal time?
3. Does _____ tend to have a strong support system?
4. Is _____ warm and available to her/his congregants?
5. Is _____ a strong leader?
6. Have you known of a personal life crisis that _____ has had and how did he/she handle it?
7. Have you experienced or do you have a perception of how _____ would handle a difference of opinion with a congregant?
8. What is the most significant contribution that _____ has made to the life of your congregation?
9. What has been the greatest challenge presented to _____?
10. Is there anything in his/her personal and professional life that we should know?
11. Would you want _____ as your cantor?

At this point ask the Reference to add whatever they wish to the reference.