To The Business Record Nomination Committee,

I am glad to have an opportunity to recommend Paul Stewart for The Business Record Forty under 40 award. Paul has worked diligently since 2009 to envision, develop, launch, and pastor The Gateway Church in downtown Des Moines. I have had the opportunity to serve with Paul on The Gateway Church board for the past three years and experienced the commitment and effort Paul has demonstrated in bringing attention and service to Des Moines.

As Lead Pastor of The Gateway Church, Paul has led an average congregation of 175 individuals and an average annual operating budget near $400,000. This includes managing up to eight staff members and sitting on two functional boards for the organization. Paul has been the primary visionary in starting and maintaining the energy towards service in the community and beyond. Paul’s efforts have resulted in over $350,000 being raised for local, regional, and global service projects and organizations. Most notably, a long-term partnership with Enlace serving local communities in El Salvador, Joppa in Des Moines serving the unsheltered, and Freedom for Youth in the Des Moines area. Paul has built relationships, encouraged partnerships, and developed volunteer teams to serve in several Des Moines area organizations in the hopes of realizing additional revitalization downtown.

I have had the great privilege of being part of The Gateway Church community and leadership team and working with Paul to develop new goals and service opportunities in Des Moines. I have witnessed Paul’s commitment to learning and engaging the downtown community through events like the annual Eggs, Eggs Everywhere Easter Egg hunt and the partnership with Central Campus School downtown. Paul continues to provide leadership, vision, and energy for The Gateway Church team and it’s members and I am excited to be able to recommend Paul for the Forty under 40 award.

Sincerely,

Jeff Borgman

Board Member of The Gateway Church