Dear Bayside Community Church,

My name is Michael Acker and I now serve as the pastor of New View Church in Stanwood/Camano. To some of you, my name may seem familiar. You may remember a little blond boy running around the Bayside grounds, participating in the kids events or standing around waiting for my parents to stop talking to their friends after Sunday morning services. After my parents chose to follow Jesus when I was just a kid, Bayside became our first solid church home. My parents quickly involved themselves in ministry, meeting friends, hosting parties, helping to serve and eventually my dad served on the board with Pastor Scott.

At the age of 9, I approached my parents and asked if I could be baptized. They were excited about my decision to commit myself to Jesus and the church. My parents talked with Pastor Scott and soon after, he baptized me in front my family and church family. (I still have pictures of this special day, and Pastor Scott looks just as young today as he did back then. :)

A couple years after my baptism, my family went to serve as missionaries in Mexico. This marked the end of our regular participation with Bayside. But it did not end our relationship. Bayside as a whole and many individuals within partnered with my family through short term missions, financial giving and visits. When my sister moved back to Washington to get married, Bayside was the location for the ceremony. And when I graduated college and my internship, Pastor Scott was one of the first to encourage me in my new pastorate here in Stanwood/Camano. To this day, he has continued to encourage and advise me along the way. With all of this, I hope you can see the place that Bayside and your Pastor has in my heart.

Last summer our paths began to merge again. The church I Pastor in Stanwood had started a second church on Camano Island the summer before. However, we didn't have a full time Pastor for the church. Starting in summer and for the last several months we have been looking for and praying for the person that God would direct to become the Camano Campus Pastor. Eventually this search brought me back to Bayside to Brandon Wessner. Brandon was my college roommate and has been a close personal friend of mine. He is someone who I respect and appreciate. I called him and told him what I was looking for. Afterwards I called Pastor Scott and asked him if I could formally interview Brandon. We talked on the phone for quite a while; we talked about our own lives, our history and then he went on to give me a glowing referral of Brandon.

Since then we have interviewed Brandon, had him preach at our Camano church, and talked to others who know him. We believe that God has led us to hire Brandon and so we have offered him the role of New View Camano Pastor.

Why do I write this? Because I want to thank you for investing in my friend Brandon. I want to thank Pastor Scott for believing in and encouraging Brandon the way that he has done so to me. I want thank your staff for giving Brandon opportunities to grow in his skills and to grow to be more like Jesus.

I know that you love and appreciate your friend, youth pastor, venue Pastor and brother in Christ. I want you to know that though you will miss him being with you in Kingston, he will take your love with him to further the cause of Christ.

Just like your relationship with Brandon has blessed you, the relationships he will form here will continue this pattern. Because of **your** partnership in the Gospel with Brandon, others will come to understand God's grace. Others will come to join the family of God. Others will come to know Jesus as their God and leader.

Thank you Bayside Community Church,

Michael Acker
Lead Pastor of New View Church