**Service of Installation *(Moderator’s Version)***

**Rev. Greg Ellis**

**Pastor of Birchwood Presbyterian Church, Bellingham, WA**

[Opening remarks]

Moderator: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**All: There is no longer Jew or Greek,**

**there is no longer slave or free,**

**there is no longer male and female;**

**for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.** (Galatians 3:27–28)

Moderator: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**All: There is one body and one Spirit,**

**just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,**

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

**one God and Father of all,**

**who is above all and through all and in all. (Eph. 4:1–6)**

**CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**

We are called out by God to be the Church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of the new life that God intends for all. In our life together we are to display the new reality that sin is forgiven, reconciliation accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility torn down.

As the living body of Christ, the church is called to proclaim the good news of salvation, to present the claims of the gospel on people’s lives, and to demonstrate Christ’s love in service to the world. We are called to undertake this mission even at the risk of our very lives, bodily and institutional, trusting God in all things. In faith we embrace a new openness to what God is doing in our time, a renewed obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ, and a new joy in our common worship and work.

Today we reclaim our historic calling and remember the great ends of the church:

**All: The great ends of the church are:**

**the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;**

**the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;**

**the maintenance of divine worship;**

**the preservation of the truth;**

**the promotion of social righteousness;**

**and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

The ministry of the church is shared by the pastor and people, so that all together may fulfill the mission to which we are called in Jesus Christ. The particular responsibility of the teaching elder is to build up the church and serve the people of God, so that the Word may be rightly proclaimed and the sacraments rightly celebrated.

The call to this ministry has been extended by Birchwood Presbyterian Church, accepted by the candidate, and approved by the presbytery. Therefore the Presbytery of Northwest Coast by means of this commission, now installs Rev. Greg Ellis as Pastor of Birchwood Presbyterian Church.

[INSTALLATION COMMISSION Comes Forward]

In his/her baptism, Greg Ellis was clothed with Christ. He/she was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament by the Mission Presbytery and is now called by God through the voice of the church to serve as pastor of this congregation.

**All: We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God’s call to our brother Greg to serve among us as pastor.**

[Pastor-Elect, Greg, comes forward]

**Constitutional Questions**

Greg, Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**I DO.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?

**I DO.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

**I DO AND I WILL.**

Will you be a minister of the Word and Sacrament in obedience to Jesus Christ under the authority of Scripture and continually guided by our confessions?

**I WILL.**

Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?

**I WILL.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

**I WILL.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity and purity of the church?

**I DO.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?

**I WILL.**

Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

**I WILL.**

**Constitutional Questions for the Congregation**

One: Do we, the members of Birchwood Presbyterian Church, accept Greg as our pastor, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

**All: We do.**

One: Do we agree to pray for him, to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

**All: We do.**

One: Do we promise to pay him fairly, and provide for his welfare as he works among us; to stand by him in trouble, and share his joy? Will we listen to the word he preaches, welcome his pastoral care, and honor his authority as he seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?

**All: We do and we will.**

**INSTALLATION PRAYER**

[Pastor kneels facing the congregation]

Moderator:

Gracious God, we praise you

that you have chosen servants in every age

to speak your Word and lead your loyal people.

We give you thanks for your servant **Greg**,

and for the ministry to which you have called him/her.

Give **Greg**. a full measure of the gifts of your Holy Spirit

both in the walk of faith

and for the work of ministry.

Anoint **Greg** with power to proclaim the gospel

in Word and Sacrament,

in witness and in service,

in truth and in love,

for the building up of the people of God

and for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Generous God,

pour out your Holy Spirit

upon this congregation and all its people,

that, baptized into your service

and united in Christ’s love,

they may serve you with joy and faithfulness

until all things are made new.

Gracious God,

accept all that we are and have

in the service of Jesus Christ,

and strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit

now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DECLARATION of INSTALLATION**

Moderator: **Rev. Greg Ellis** you are now installed to service as **Pastor of Birchwood Presbyterian Church.**

Whatever you do, in word or deed do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him (Col. 3:17).

[Stand and Applause]

**BLESSING**

Moderator: May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:23).

**AMEN.**

**CHARGE TO PASTOR**

**CHARGE TO CONGREGATION**