

Welcome those present and those listening to the streaming broadcast (Mom, Dad, Uncle Dave)–
Apology to those who thought Kenny was going to preach: come next Sunday!
Thank Kenny for opportunity, for this, and to orchestrate the ordination process.
Pray

I. Ordination - Definition

New Testament never uses the word "ordain" (in the modern, technical sense) in connection with a Christian leader who is installed to an office.

"ordain" carries with it the idea that special grace is transferred through the act of laying on of hands, like some traditions which claim that the authority of the office comes from the bishop passed to the appointee by the laying on of hands.

"Potestatem et Virtuem Meam, et Potestati Concedo!"

II. Appointment / Commissioning - Definition

Laying on of hands is described differently in Greek than "appointment", which is the key concept trying to emphasize. "Appointment" is cheirotonço in the Greek, is a compound word taken from "hand" and "to stretch". Some claim cheirotonço means to vote, such as in Acts 14:23, where Paul and Barnabas "appointed elders" in every church in various cities in Asia Minor. This is not likely based on the context. Paul and Barnabas appointed, not voted, for the elders of the church.

<Demo>: Vote-- all in favor of Kenny as Pastor of RCF, raise your hand!
 Lay Hands--from earlier
 Point

Commissioning is appointment to a position/office,

- by God (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11)
- on someone who meets the qualifications of an elder (1Tim 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9)
- and who is impassioned to preach (1 Cor 9:16)
- where the church publicly recognizes God's leading
- and who is sent, after the church has prayed, fasted, laid on hands and given a charge

Introduction done, let's get started!

III. God (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:11)

God Himself calls men to the ministry and qualifies them with gifts.

*And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third **teachers**, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.
(1 Corinthians 12:28 ESV)*

*And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the **shepherds and teachers**, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
(Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV)*

God calls. God chooses. Not me. Not the board that met two weeks ago. Not you. The audacity if I think otherwise. A peach tree produces peaches, not oranges. It can't **not** do what it was designed and called to do. Rabbits produce rabbits, lots of them. They can only produce rabbits. Likewise, when God called Kenny to pastor, he could not **not** do it, regardless of what others might say.

When called, all we need to do is respond in obedience.

IV. Qualifications (1Tim 3:2-7 and Titus 1:5-9)

Not going to exegete this—Kenny will cover in tonight's session. Will read through, and make two points:

*Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.
(1 Timothy 3:2-7 ESV)*

Oh, and he can't be younger than 35, must have a seminary degree, and can't be disorganized.

*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.
(Titus 1:5-9 ESV)*

Ability to teach includes ability to give instruction in sound doctrine, to contend for it and to correct others who contradict it.

V. Impassioned to Preach (1 Cor 9:16)

For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

(1 Corinthians 9:16 ESV)

If you've been a part of Reformation Christian Fellowship since February 5th, and talked to Kenny before the start of the service, you know he is absolutely giddy about preaching. Like Christmas morning every Sunday morning. And if you've seen and heard him preach! Listen to the previous Sunday's audio, but live is better. Come visit.

VI. Church Publicly Recognizes God's Leading

It is the church's duty to recognize those whom God has set apart for this important duty. Grudem, in his systemic theology, comments, "If one is convinced that the local church should select elders, then it would seem appropriate that the church that elected that elder—not an external bishop—should be the group to confer the outward recognition at election by installing the person in office or ordaining the pastor."

This is what we're doing now. But want to refer to ordination board questions and Kenny's answers—they confirm for us publicly God's calling for Kenny to be pastor of Reformation Christian Fellowship

VII. Praying, Fasting, Laying on of Hands, Charged and Sent

Prayer and fasting is also associated with the selection and appointing of leaders. The apostles followed the example of Jesus who prayed all night before choosing His twelve disciples (Luke 6:12-13). After the church selected the Seven (first deacons) we read that the apostles "prayed and laid their hands on them" (Acts 6:6). Similarly, when Barnabas and Paul were appointed as missionaries, the church fasted and prayed and then sent them off (Acts 13:3).

Let's do that now. Kenny, come forward and center. Mike Carpenter, opposite me on the other side of Kenny. Everyone else that desires, come forward and lay your hand on Kenny or someone who is.

This will be very simple. One of things we learned about the character of God is anything thrice repeated is a point of emphasis, a really big exclamation point. While not the entire meaning behind Jesus' re-commissioning of Peter after the resurrection, I think it's an appropriate model for today.

"Kenneth Lindsey D'Auria, do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?" <response> "Feed His Lambs"
"Kenneth Lindsey D'Auria, do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?" <response> "Tend His Sheep"
"Kenneth Lindsey D'Auria, do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?" <response> "Feed His Sheep"

"Our Lord God Father, Son Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we, your people, publicly recognize that You have called Kenneth Lindsey D'Auria to pastor and teach the local body of believers of Reformation Christian Fellowship. May You alone be glorified in the coming days and years as he fulfills your calling. In the name of our Lord Jesus, Amen."