

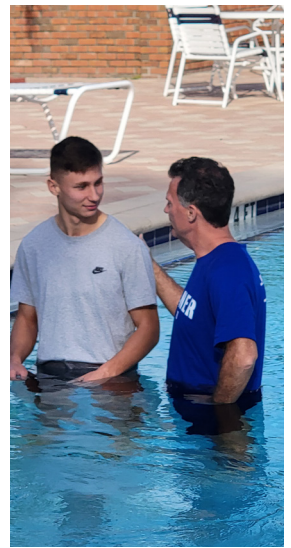


Introducing our **Senior Pastor Candidate** **KEN HENSLEY**



Ken is a relational, emotionally healthy, and collaborative leader with over 30 years of pastoral experience. His heart for discipleship, passion for the next generation, and proven track record of leading churches through seasons of growth and transformation make him uniquely equipped to lead Calvary into the future. Alongside his wife Tonya, Ken is eager to invest deeply in our church family and community for years to come.

1. He's a Shepherd and a Strategist.
2. He Aligns with Calvary's Mission and Values.
3. He has a Heart for the Next Generation.



Ken Hensley

Candidate Summary

Personal & Family Life

Ken is originally from Peoria, IL, and his wife, Tonya, is from Memphis, TN. They met in college and have been married 34 years. They have two daughters. Hannah is a high school teacher at White Bear Lake Area High School. She graduated from Bethel University in 2019 and got married in March of this year. Their youngest daughter, Hope, attended Hope College in Holland, MI, and the University of Northern Colorado. She is a special education teacher in Denver. Ken and Tonya enjoy pickleball, hiking, coffee shops, open mic nights, and attending baseball games.

Education

Ken holds an MBA and an M.S. in Management and Leadership from Western Governors University, and a B.A. in American Studies with a minor in Preaching Bible from Freed Hardeman University. While planting a church in San Diego, Ken attended Bethel Seminary West in San Diego.





Ministry Experience

Ken has served in a wide range of ministry roles over the past three decades. Most recently as an Assistant Professor of Business at Warner University, where he taught leadership and management courses, led student discipleship groups, and spoke in chapel services. Prior to this, he served as Senior Pastor at Mountainview Christian Church in Colorado from 2009 to 2022, where he revitalized the church following a leadership transition, led a successful \$1.6 million capital campaign, mentored younger pastors, and helped start five new churches. His earlier ministry roles include founding and leading LifePoint Christian Church in San Diego, as well as serving in senior leadership positions in churches in Georgia and California. Ken also brings church planting experience through his work with Church Planters of the Rockies and as a coach to new church leaders. Additionally, he served as the founding Vice Chairman of Bridge of Hope Greater Denver, a nonprofit supporting single mothers through housing and mentoring. Throughout his ministry, Ken has demonstrated a passion for leadership development, church health, and Gospel-centered growth.

In Ken's Words

MINISTRY & CALLING

Q: Can you briefly share your journey into pastoral ministry?

A: My parents loved Jesus and His Church, and they taught me to do the same. While in high school, God stirred a desire within me to serve His Church. This desire was affirmed by our pastor, and he encouraged me to pursue it. He was the first adult outside of my parents who said he saw leadership potential in me.

Q: What do you love most about being a pastor?

A: I love being able to engage a wide spectrum of people with the message of Jesus. I enjoy the challenge of connecting with skeptics, searchers, and seasoned believers during the same sermon. I love seeing Jesus captivate people and then watching how their lives are transformed by His grace.

Q: What drew you to Calvary Church and this opportunity?

A: There are many factors that attracted us to Calvary Church. I love the sense of rootedness that exists at Calvary and quickly noticed how much people care about their church. I love that Calvary is surrounded by colleges and universities. I've seen firsthand the spiritual awakening that is happening among young adults and believe Calvary is well positioned to play a key role in that.

Q: How would you describe your preaching style and approach to teaching the Bible?

A: My approach to preaching is text-based and Christ-centered. My goal is to help people properly understand the passage within its context and how it applies to them. Ultimately, my purpose in preaching is to point people to Jesus. For pre-Christians, I want them to feel safe exploring matters of faith, having questions, and feeling like their concerns are recognized. For Christians, I want them to have a growing confidence in who Jesus is and how their faith impacts every aspect of life.

Q: What is your vision for the local church in this cultural moment?

A: In every generation, the church has had challenges and opportunities. While there is no conflict between grace and truth, there is often tension. In this moment, I believe we need a church that is committed to knowing and following Jesus. A healthy, thriving church is one that readily accepts the responsibility of being salt and light in its culture – even when it is difficult.





HEART & VALUES

Q: What values or convictions are most important to you in ministry?

A: Because He is the Son of God, I believe Jesus is the smartest and wisest person who ever lived. I try to live by His values and convictions. In leading teams, I value honesty, hard work, and having fun together. Whether it's a staff person or a church member, I love helping people grow in their own giftedness and calling.

Q: Who has shaped your leadership the most?

A: My earliest example of servant leadership was my father. He was quiet and calm, and served our church behind the scenes. Other influential people would be the writings of Ken Blanchard, Jim Collins, Patrick Lencioni, Jim Cymbala, and Brené Brown.

Q: How do you stay grounded spiritually and emotionally as a leader?

A: I wholeheartedly believe in the principles of Emotionally Healthy Spirituality and Emotionally Healthy Leadership by Peter Scazzero. The principles I practice include regular time with God in reading His Word and prayer, times of silence and solitude, and surrounding myself with godly people who will speak into my life.

FUN FAVORITES

Q: What's one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?

A: I was a competitive roller speed skater until I started middle school. And we once met Pat Boone at his house in Beverly Hills.

Q: What are your favorite books, podcasts, or hobbies right now?

A: Outside of the Bible, my favorite books would be *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, *Spirit of the Disciplines* by Dallas Willard, and *Atomic Habits* by James Clear. My podcast list includes ones such as the *Huberman Lab* and sermons by Tim Keller, as well as *History that Doesn't Suck* and *Freakonomics*. For hobbies, I enjoy writing and we both have been learning Spanish through Duolingo.

Q: Favorite Bible verse or passage?


A: Philippians 3:12-14.

Q: Favorite vacation spot?

A: I would say Miami. Tonya would say San Diego.

Q: Favorite worship song or band?

A: My current favorite worship song would be *Goodness of God*. Phil Wickham is one of my favorite Christian songwriters. Outside of Christian music, my interest ranges from Lyle Lovett to the Avett Brothers and classic rock.



Why Ken?

THOUGHTS FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE & ELDER BOARD

Ken is a transformative leader with a heart for the next generation and an urgency for bringing the lost into the Kingdom. Ken's significant experience in leading and growing churches after seasons of transition, as well as planting new churches, will serve him well at Calvary. He is gifted in teaching and developing people, grounded in Scripture, and leads from a posture of humility and authenticity. I am excited to see what God will do through him!

- Dean Junkans, Elder Board Chair & Search Committee

During the interview process, Ken shared a favorite phrase that "you can't call yourself a shepherd if you don't smell like sheep." You have to be present and surrounded by your sheep. It became evident that was a reflection of Ken's leadership style and heart for shepherding others. Ken builds authentic relationships, communicates thoughtfully and intentionally, and faithfully serves the Lord in all he does.

- Sarah Darr, Search Committee Chair

Ken is a highly relational, emotionally healthy, collaborative, experienced leader. He will rely on God to further promote the mission, vision, and values of Calvary, particularly in the area of local outreach. I love his heart to reach young adults. I'm looking forward to Ken and Tonya living in our area and serving both campuses for many years to come!

- Rich Schoenert, Intentional Interim Senior Pastor & Advisor to the Search Committee

What stood out to me about Ken is his deep spiritual maturity, leadership experience, and humble, relational approach to ministry. He has a proven track record of leading churches through growth and transition, all while staying grounded in Scripture and aligned with the mission of reaching the lost and making disciples. Ken is both a shepherd and a strategist.

- Glenn Martin, Search Committee

Ken is the gentle shepherd we've been praying for. Ken brings extensive leadership expertise, high emotional intelligence, and a collaborative spirit to Calvary. His heart for the "unseen" and forgotten, along with his passion for discipleship, will help us move forward with unity, purpose, and compassion. I believe God has uniquely prepared him for this moment in our church's journey.

- Jim Hoar, Search Committee

The search committee was most impressed with Ken's leadership skills and experience. We also noticed how calm, professional, and respectful he was in his interactions with everyone. He also has a passion for developing the next generation's leaders. We look forward to seeing how he will use his skills and experiences at Calvary!

- Jessica Miller, Elder Board & Search Committee

What impressed me most about Ken was the breadth and depth of his leadership experience, paired with a calm, confident, and emotionally healthy presence. His servant leadership style, emphasis on community engagement, and ability to lead and develop other leaders align closely with Calvary's mission, vision, and values.

- Curt Brown, Elder Board

Ken brings strong experience as a senior pastor and is a devoted Christ-follower who has faithfully led multiple churches through challenging seasons toward a stronger future. He is well equipped to help Calvary set a clear, strategic direction that engages members and attendees in fulfilling our mission and values. Ken also carries a deep calling to invest in young adults and train up future Christian leaders.

- Trista Johnson, Elder Board & Search Committee

Ken clearly sees that Calvary is a good match for who he is with his skill set and past experiences. He is well equipped to train supportive and healthy leaders. There is an ease with which he conveys his total surrender to the Lord. He is Christ-centered and gracious with a clear devotion to raising up followers of Jesus.

- Bob Bjorklund, Elder Board

Candidating Week

Tuesday / September 9

Candidate will attend staff meetings.

Candidate Meet & Greet

7-8:30pm

Roseville Campus (childcare available)

Wednesday / September 10

Candidate Meet & Greet

10-11:30am

Roseville Campus

Candidate Meet & Greet

6:30-8pm

White Bear Campus (childcare available)

Thursday / September 11

Candidate will attend the Elder Board meeting.

Saturday / September 13

Candidate Meet & Greet

10-11:30am

White Bear Campus (childcare available)

Sunday / September 14

Candidate Live Preaching Schedule

9am / Roseville Campus Traditional Service

10:30am / White Bear Campus Contemporary Service

Special Business Meeting

1:30-2:30pm

White Bear Campus (childcare available)

How do Members Vote?

Members will vote in person at church during the special business meeting on September 14 at 1:30pm at the White Bear Campus.

Unable to attend the meeting? You can vote online September 12 through noon on September 14. Voting online will make it impossible for your vote to be anonymous as we will need you to verify your membership before voting. If you plan to vote, please make every effort to attend a Candidate Meet & Greet and read all of the information presented to get to know Ken.

The link to the ballot will be posted online at **calvarychurch.us/search**



Roseville Campus / 2120 Lexington Ave N / Roseville, MN 55113

White Bear Campus / 4604 Greenhaven Dr / White Bear Twp, MN 55127



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