

Just Serve and Let God Do the Rest

“Just serve and let God do the rest.” This guiding principle has served as a compass for Fred Johnson throughout his life—and some of the fruit has resulted.

Dr. Fred Johnson is senior pastor at First Genesis Baptist Church, a growing and progressive ministry that has adopted the biblical themes “Making Disciples for the Kingdom” and “A Church on the Move with God’s Vision in Hand.” He has participated in every facet of church ministry as prophet, priest and leader

with a passion for evangelism, teaching, preaching and community building. One colleague notes, “He is a man of prayer and study and is often called upon to share words of encouragement and spiritual insight to those who are struggling with the tribulations of life.”

Under his pastoral leadership the First Genesis Baptist Church has experienced membership and spiritual growth. Fred is a visionary servant and Christ-like leader who believes in the authority of Scripture, power of the Holy Spirit, the sovereignty of God’s eternal promises, and that Jesus is Lord.

In 2004 Fred was invited to teach a course on the *Fundamentals of Finance for Ministers and Churches* at Northeastern Seminary. His expertise in this area grew out of his first career of more than 20 years of experience in the private sector working for multinational corporations, as well as his direction of the South West Area Development Corporation, a non-profit economic development ministry of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

Dr. Johnson serves as a board member of the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership (GRHP) and Anthony Jordan Health Center Community Council. Honors include recognition by the Rochester Business Journal “40 under 40,” the Dr. Samuel McCree Community Service Award, the National Black Master Business Administration Association, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. He serves on the Northeastern Seminary Clergy Council, the North East Area Community Council, and the Rochester City School District (RCSD) School #6 Reading Program. And he is the board chair of the Rochester Connection, a non-profit ministry that networks resources within and across denominational lines to facilitate church growth and Christian ministry.

Fred earned his Bachelor of Science from Delaware State University, a Master in Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology, and then *two more degrees from NES!* He earned both the Master of Divinity (2001) and Doctor of Ministry (2007), part of Northeastern’s very first class of doctoral students. Fred’s dissertation was titled, “Economic Empowerment by an Urban African American Church: Individual and Community Transformation—A Model for the Twenty-First Century.”

Fred is a native of Brooklyn, New York and he is married to Evangelina (Gail) Johnson, his childhood sweetheart, who is an educator in the Rochester City School District. They have three children, daughters Jasmine and Brandy, and son Fred Jr.



Dr. Fred Johnson, *center*, with parishioners from First Genesis Baptist Church at the distinguished alumnus of the year ceremony.