

Pastor Jonathan Edward Ford

Biography – short version

Pastor Jonathan Ford is a true Philadelphia son. Born and raised in the Germantown and Mt. Airy sections of Philadelphia, he attended Central High School. While matriculating at Central he was president of the 246th class for two consecutive years and was an all-star football athlete. After graduation from Central, he was accepted to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. While there, he participated in the varsity football program and helped the Penn Quakers win an Ivy League Championship. He was also initiated in the Delta Eta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. After graduation, he began his professional career in New York City at Price Waterhouse Coopers, specializing in information technology for financial services companies. Entrepreneurial pursuits led Jonathan to establish RMD Concessions with other business partners. RMD focused on food and retail concessions in airports and sport facilities. After a successful three-year stint, Jonathan returned to management consulting and the Philadelphia area by taking a senior position with KPMG Peat Marwick in their electronic commerce practice. He was recruited from there to join Automated Financial Systems, the leading commercial lending solution provider in the United States, with over 90 of the top 100 banks in America utilize their products and services. Jonathan Ford joined as the director of consulting services to lead the company's business re-engineering and change management practices. After several successful years in corporate America, Rev. Ford left to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities again. He is currently the managing partner for UHP Wireless Network, a US Small Business Administration 8(a) certified minority firm specializing in wireless technology for businesses and municipalities.

Pastor Ford has always remained closely tied to his home church, Taylor Tabernacle. In 1996, he was ordained as a deacon and in 1999 as a licensed minister. After serving as assistant pastor for several years, he was unanimously voted and installed as the senior pastor for Taylor Tabernacle in 2009. Pastor Ford is a much sought-after speaker for churches, businesses, men's and youth groups across the region.

Pastor Ford is also the executive director of Turning the TIDE, a technology and business training center operated as a separate non-profit subsidiary of the church. Turning the TIDE has received several federal grants to support its renowned program, Project ECHO, which focuses on providing job training and job placement services, along with entrepreneurial training for ex-offenders. Turning the Tide was recognized in March 2007 by the U. S. Department of Labor with its "Compassion Award" for its exemplary services and long-term success. Under Pastor Ford's leadership, Turning the TIDE has also become one of the leading faith-based organizations to provide HIV/AIDS education, counseling and rapid-testing in the city of Philadelphia.

Pastor Ford is a desired speaker and thought leader for faith-based partnerships and programs. He has been a speaker at the White House, on behalf of President Bush's Center for Faith-Based Initiatives and on numerous other occasions for the U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. Department of Labor.

In May 2010, Pastor Ford received the Distinguished Leadership Award from Community College of Philadelphia. The award is given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to higher education and the Philadelphia community at large.

In addition, Pastor Ford is past Chairman of the board of directors for The Partnership CDC, an organization dedicated to proving affordable housing and employment opportunities to low income individuals and families in Philadelphia. He has also served on the advisory board for the Center for Urban and Theological Studies (CUTS). CUTS is one of the oldest theological seminaries in Philadelphia.

Pastor Ford is married to N'Jameh Samuels and they have three (3) sons: Jordan, Jackson and Jacob.