

Robert Ferguson

Robert Ferguson is a native Hoosier, attending both North Central High School as well as Indiana State University. After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1989, Robert embarked on a journey for direction and purpose that would take him through Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, the Million Man March, and eventually landing in the pulpit of one of Indianapolis's most prominent African American Baptist churches. Ordained and licensed October 10th, 1999, Robert served several years in the pulpit while questions surrounding gender equality, sexuality, and spirituality began to surface and the journey toward true enlightenment began.

In 2002, Robert joined Jesus Metropolitan Community Church and under the tutelage of Pastor Jeff Minor began to study and learn more about GLBT theology and inclusive doctrine. Still feeling the call to ministry on his life, Robert began to give public voice to the struggles of African American gays and lesbians, particularly Christians who had been censured under the institution of the Black Church. Through speaking engagements, invitations to sit on panels, and being interviewed on radio, television, and in newspaper articles, Indianapolis and surrounding communities had begun to have a new dialogue concerning race, sexuality, and religion.

Shortly after joining Jesus MCC, Robert founded the Diversity Ministry at Jesus MCC to address the ministry needs of the Black GLBT community. Through the efforts of the Diversity team, the Midwest's largest GLBT church community was able to present a booth at the nation's largest African American event, Indiana Black Expo, bringing together two communities that previously had little or no interaction.

In 2004, Robert founded Indiana Black Pride Inc. Born out of the need for a more unified and empowered Black GLBT community, IBP continues to address the ills that affect marginalized gays and lesbians as well as celebrate the unique history and culture that make up Indiana's Black GLBT family. What started as a small ministry and movement has grown to a state-wide organization with more than 300 supporters and is a charter member of the International Federation of Black Prides.

Next on the horizon, Robert intends to pursue an education in religion and continue in his role as an ordained deacon of Jesus Metropolitan Community Church.