

### John K. Jenkins, Sr. Biography



John K. Jenkins Sr. is senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden International in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, where he has been preaching and teaching about the love of Jesus Christ since 1989. He remains steadfast in his quest to “develop dynamic disciples” and is recognized as a catalyst to develop individuals into lifelong Christian disciples who follow the Lord.

Under his leadership, Pastor Jenkins has grown church membership to 12,000 people between its two campuses in Upper Marlboro and Landover and subsequently launched an active online presence.

#### Planting and Strengthening Churches

Pastor Jenkins has a deep history with Converge - a movement of nearly 1,700 churches focused on church planting and strengthening initiatives throughout the globe. His home church has been an affiliate member for nearly 25 years.

Pastor Jenkins personally has served in various leadership roles, including most recently in September 2022 when he was appointed president of Converge, making him the first African American to lead the 170-year-old organization. Prior to that, he has served in other roles, including service on the Converge Board of Overseers and its executive committee and as vice president/executive director of National Ministries for Converge.

#### Preaching the Good News

Pastor Jenkins has been preaching the Good News since he was licensed as a minister in 1973 at 15 years old. From an early age, he developed a love for the Lord and felt a call to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

His pastoral journey began in February 1987 as the senior pastor at Union Bethel Church in King George, Va. His nearly three years of pastoring proved to be the training ground for his upcoming assignment. In October of 1988, Pastor Jenkins learned of the passing of his mentor and pastor of his home church, the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, Dr. John W. Johnson.

One year after Dr. Johnson’s passing, Pastor Jenkins returned to First Baptist to become the seventh shepherd. The fruit of his biblically based teaching is demonstrated in the growth of its church membership between its two campuses located in Landover and Upper Marlboro, Md. He has also overseen the development of the church’s thriving online campus.

#### Expanding His Ministry

Under the leadership of Pastor Jenkins, First Baptist founded SHABACH! Ministries, Inc. (SMI), a 501(c)3 arm of the church in 1996. Today, he serves as chairman emeritus for SMI, which provides clothing, food, education and other resources in the Washington, D.C., area.



With the support of his wife, Trina, and their loving family, Pastor Jenkins has expanded his ministry beyond the walls of First Baptist. In addition to his role as senior pastor, he also serves as the board chairman for the National Association of Evangelicals, Project Bridges and The Skinner Institute, as well as serving as a board member for the Greater Prince George's County Business Roundtable and Bethel University. Pastor Jenkins was formerly on the boards of Denver Seminary, University of Maryland Capital Region Health, World Vision, Great Dads, Teen Challenge, and a local bank.

#### **Growing his Knowledge**

In May 2023, Pastor Jenkins received a Master of Arts Degree in Ministry Leadership from Wheaton College in Chicago, IL; in 2022, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Denver Seminary in Littleton, CO and in 2001, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the Southern California School of Ministry in Inglewood, CA.

In 2023, Pastor Jenkins added the title of author to his list of accomplishments with the release of his first book, "Grace to Grow."

Despite his many obligations, as a licensed pilot, Pastor Jenkins takes great delight in flying, and holds his role as a family man as the highest treasure. He and his wife, Trina, are the proud parents of six children and seven grandchildren.