

PASTOR AJ JOHNSON·A BIOGRAPHY



Pastor AJ Johnson is a faith-influenced voice for urban resurgence and revival and a pace-setting champion for justice and community-wide uplift.

As a trailblazer, Johnson leads [The Urban Hope Refuge Church](#) (@revivalthatworks), an influential church where passionate worship and community activism meet in Hartford, Connecticut. In addition he is a part of the [Center for Leadership & Justice](#) team as a full time organizer.

A bridge-builder at heart, Pastor Johnson is frequently in the company of notable men, women and unsung heroes. Johnson uses every opportunity as a featured speaker on social justice issues on community-action panels, workshops and national conferences to connect people to each other and inspire stronger communities. Johnson, a well-known advocate in the 'Fight for 15', 'Moral Monday', 'Ban the Box', 'No More Slumlords' movements and contributor to other causes, campaigns and organizations.

He spearheads Small Business Night Out (@AjFriendsSmallBusinessNightOut), a network of minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs, Calling all Brothers, a widely hailed male mentor-ship and leadership organization and Brothers Johnson 1929 Hat Company (@BrothersJohnson1929), a clothing brand reflecting strength, loyalty and distinction.

Pastor Johnson has been a recipient of Hartford Business Journal '40 under 40' honor and The Merrilee Milstein Award for Organizing, Activism & Leadership and an honoree of the 100 Men of Color Award for Leadership, Entrepreneurial Success and Community Activism. His community organizing efforts have been celebrated in notable online news platforms including TVONE, The Huffington Post and Yahoo News; several print media standard bearers including The Hartford Courant, The Christian Science Monitor and The San Diego Union Tribune as well as several radio and television outlets.

AJ is married to the former Melinda Solomon-Badhaj, is the father of a one year old son plus a baby on the way and an active member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. Pastor AJ Johnson holds a Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies and Education from W.L. Bonner College and has a Master's degree in Organizational Management and Leadership.