

Rev. Handel Smith Bio

Handel Smith is serving as the **Executive Director for US and Canada Strategy for Church of God Ministries in Anderson, Indiana**. Rev. Smith has served the Church of God at the local and national level for over 35 years. He is called to be a loving leader, helping people and organizations to reach their potential in God. He serves as **Lead Pastor for the Celebration Church at Arrow Heights in Anderson, Indiana**, supporting the **national focus toward Urban Ministry Initiatives**. In support of resourcing churches and pastors he also serves as a member of the ECFA Member Advisory Board.

Rev. Smith's current work with Church of God Ministries involves *leading a team of dynamic leaders that serve over 2,000 churches and over 6,000 ministers in the United States and Canada*. Rev. Smith oversees the Church of God Domestic team's efforts to:

- Provide ministerial and church credentialing oversight
- Provide pastoral care for Church of God ministers
- Cultivate church health and multiplication
- Provide opportunities and resources for leadership development
- Plan and resource ministry events and activities for international youth ministry in the Church of God (Anderson, IN)
- Provide oversight and resourcing for the Home Missions of the Church of God which includes Native American Ministries and Urban Ministries.
- Help resource partners in ministry including the National Association of the Church of God (NACOG), the Hispanic Concilio, Chaplain Ministries, Leadership Focus, and the International Coaching Network.
- Oversees initiatives supporting **Biblical Fluency; Church Reproduction; Discipleship Making Culture**

Rev. Smith's extensive educational accomplishments include:

- BA in public affairs and government from Anderson College (now Anderson University)
- MS in business administration and an Executive Leadership Certificate in Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services from Johns Hopkins University
- Executive Leadership Certificate from the Wharton Business School
- Executive Leadership Certificate from Rutgers Business School
- Currently pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from the Anderson University School of Theology

Rev. Smith's achievements include:

- *Experienced international speaker for church conferences, workshops, camp meetings, conventions, and major youth events such as Leadership Summit and the national and international gatherings.*
- Recipient of the **Presidential Eagle Award for Highest Level of Leadership Excellence awarded by Verizon Business.**
- Recipient of the **Anderson University Community Impact Award**
- Recipient of the **Professor of the Year Award presented by Strayer University.**

- Recipient of the **Governor's Volunteer Award from the State of Maryland** for Celebrate Recovery behind Prison Walls

His professional ministry and work experience also includes:

- **15 years with the National Inspiration Youth Convention**
- **32 years with Celebration Church's multi-campus ministry in various roles including Deputy Pastor of Strategic Planning, Congregational Pastor, Minister of Music, and Director of Celebrate Recovery.**
- **27 years of service to Verizon as the Vice President of Verizon Business** with state and local government bodies.
- **Founder and operator of High Velocity Solutions (HVS)**, a company which provides consulting in the areas of church growth, management, technology, and marketing.
- He has served the nonprofit sector as an officer in the Black Administration for Child Welfare, as an adjunct professor at Strayer University, and on several boards.

Rev. Handel Smith lives in Fishers, Indiana, and has been **happily married to his wife Vickey for 36 years**. They have three **children: Darius, Josiah, and Mariah**. Rev. Smith and his wife are dedicated to the mission of the Church of God. It is Rev. Smith's expressed desire to **be used by God to help Church of God churches continue to discover God's purpose and to help people and organizations to reach their full potential in God**. This they do together as ministers of music and are **accomplished recording artists of the inspirational CD "Healed in His Presence."** Their daughter, Mariah, has developed into a talented minister through music, dance, and violin. Josiah is a percussionist. Darius is attending school and working in Baltimore City. Together, Rev. Smith and his *family are committed to being on mission from God* to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Handel's favorite verse expresses well his heart for the Lord and his determination to serve God with steadfast fruitfulness: "...*His delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night...He is like a tree planted by streams of water which bears its fruit in season...whatever he does prospers...*" (Psalm 1:2-3).

In response to God's direction in his life, Rev. Handel Smith is now in the process of writing a book called *So You Call Yourself a Servant Leader*, which is to be released at the end of 2020. Here are some notable quotes from the book:

- "The question isn't if you have been called to serve but where."
- "Beware of what you become in pursuit of what you want."
- "If serving is below you, leadership is beyond you."
- "A career is what you're paid for, a calling is what you're made for."