



The Reverend Markel Hutchins, 43, is the visionary behind MovementForward, Inc. (MFI), the One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) initiative and National Faith & Blue Weekend. A renowned minister, noted activist, professional speaker, businessman and social entrepreneur, he has led countless humanitarian causes over the past two decades. Heeding Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s call to “make a career of humanity,” Reverend Hutchins has earned a national reputation advocating fairness and equality. He has held senior leadership positions in numerous organizations and is among the nation’s leading voices on an array of issues including human and civil rights, national politics, social justice, peace and other matters of public interest. Reverend Hutchins is currently President & Chief Executive Officer of MFI, a modern, inclusive

and bridge-building social change organization, and National Lead Organizer of both the OneCOP initiative and National Faith & Blue Weekend.

From 1997 until 2006, Reverend Hutchins simultaneously served as National President and CEO of the National Youth Connection (N.Y.C.), Inc., then America’s only young-adult led civil rights group, and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of its research and education fund, the National Youth Challenge, Inc. He was also a one-time congressional candidate, and is a well-known figure in the metro-Atlanta community having led many high profile civil rights efforts, most notably the case of 92-year old Kathryn Johnston who was killed by Atlanta police in a botched drug raid in 2006 and the case of 18-year old police shooting victim Corey Ward in 2002. In 2009, he led more than 100 Atlanta-area church pastors and 25 police chiefs in initiating the “One Church – One Precinct” effort aimed at uniting law enforcement and faith-based communities in addressing crime and violence objectively. Additionally, he has led thousands of participants in some of the South’s largest public demonstrations.

Prior to co-founding MFI in 2015, he was Managing Principal and CEO of MRH-LLC, a management and communications consulting firm that advised corporations, labor unions, small businesses and religious institutions on matters of diversity, public affairs, community relations and crisis management.

Leadership

Reverend Hutchins has served on a number of boards, committees and commissions for respected institutions such as the DeKalb County, Georgia Board of Education; the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Pulling America's Communities Together (PACT); the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the Edwards-Miller Foundation for Physical Disabilities; and the Catalyst Project.

Educational and Personal Background

Reverend Hutchins is an alumni of the historic Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. As a former African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) pastor and an ordained Baptist minister since age 17, he is a sought-after preacher who regularly delivers sermons to churchgoers across the nation and has received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity degree for his ministerial accomplishments.

Ebony Magazine has featured him as one of our nation’s top “next generation” leaders and more recently as one of America’s “Most Eligible Bachelors.” He has one son and they live in metro-Atlanta.