



Brian Jones is a born-again follower of Jesus Christ and a proud Painesville, Ohio native. A Harvey High School (Class of 1982) graduate, he first served his country Ohio Army National Guard and the U.S. Navy during Operation Desert Storm. He trained at the Defense Information School (Indianapolis) with concentrations in journalism, digital media, and public affairs; pursued studies at John Carroll University and Lakeland Community College; and worked as a military and environmental reporter in the Pacific Northwest. He is also a charter Minority Fellow of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Answering a call to ministry in 1999 under Bishop R. A. Coffee I, at Union Community Church (Concord Township), Brian went on to serve at Highland Christian Center (Portland, OR), St. John Baptist Church (Painesville) and was Interim Pastor, First Church of Christ (Painesville). Along the way, he founded two nonprofits in 2008—Cross Outreach Ministry and DBSA Northeast Ohio—advancing social entrepreneurship to relieve injustice and human suffering; in 2010 he became a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist and began serving the State of Ohio as a Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Chaplain, primarily in jails and prisons. Brian has returned to St. John Baptist Church, where he is an Associate Servant Leader under Servant Leader Marvin J. Walker, Jr.

Today, Brian serves on the Painesville City Public Lands and Recreation Committee, is a Lake History Center board member, and contributes to the Lake County NAACP's Religious Affairs, Political Action, and Leadership Development Committees. His current initiative includes Meals 4 Student Athletes, which provides consistent, nutritious after-school and pre-game meals to local student athletes to reduce food insecurity and support performance in classrooms and on fields; the initiative seeks financial partners, sponsors, and a fiscal agent to expand capacity, streamline distribution, and sustain year-round service. He also leads the Greater Painesville City Underground Railroad & Historic Preservation Project, which documents, preserves, and interprets local black history and culture; and abolitionist sites to strengthen public education, heritage tourism and community pride; to execute this vision—research, markers, restorations, and programming—the project is recruiting financial partners, sponsors, and a fiscal agent to scale fundraising and implementation. A lifelong member of American Legion Post 336 (Painesville) and VFW Post 3694 (Bremerton, WA). He is advancing toward the completion of his graduate degrees.