

# Rev. Derek Terry

## Information Sheet



Spiritual Leader — LGBT Activist — Speaker — Author



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Rev. Derek A. Terry is an ordained minister and pastor with congregations in Cincinnati, Ohio and Louisville, KY. He completed undergraduate and graduate degrees in Chemistry while simultaneously pastoring a church and completing his ministerial training work. After college, Rev. Derek worked as a chemist in a scientific research laboratory where he co-authored several articles on cancer research that were published in various scientific journals.

At age twenty-four, Rev. Derek was ordained an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church by Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie (the first female bishop in the AME Church). He spent years as one of the denomination's rising stars while pastoring and serving in various capacities of the national church organization and working as a chemist. Eventually, Rev. Derek realized that his passion was not research science, so he utilized the critical thinking and problem solving skills that he developed through his education and career as a scientist to start a consulting firm—DAT Solutions and Consulting. His firm aids nonprofits and small businesses in the areas of organizational development, leadership development, program development, and fundraising.

Eventually, after years of soul searching and prayer, Rev. Derek came to terms with the truth of his sexual orientation and left the AME church because he could not serve and pastor in the denomination as an openly gay man. Soon, Rev. Derek joined the United Church of Christ (UCC) where he now serves as the Senior Pastor and Chief Administrator of the St. Peter's UCC Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rev. Derek also leads the Community Empowerment Center (a mission in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky) that regularly hosts services, forums, service projects, and conversations covering a variety of spiritual and social topics. In Late September 2015, Rev. Derek was featured on the three-part season premiere of the *Iyanla, Fix My Life Show* on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). The host, Iyanla Vanzant, helped him publicly come out to his community as "a gay black man who ministers." His first book, *Does God Still Love Me?* was released in October 2015.

Rev. Derek currently travels throughout the country preaching, teaching, lecturing, and encouraging communities to live their truth.

**Selected Press Features:**

**CNN's Great Big Story Feature**

Full Gawker Feature Article

Article Rev. Derek Published in The Huffington Post

The TurnUp Show Full Interview

The G-List Society Full Interview

Dishing Tea With Big Meech Full Interview

The Nikki Rich Show Full Interview

