

LEONARDO D. GILBERT, a visionary, missionary, community leader, and servant of God, was born and raised in Chicago. He lives by the motto that he has been “saved to serve.” And in any given conversation, you’ll probably hear him say that as servants of God, “we are in the people-serving business.” If you know Bro. Gilbert, you will know that he is almost always serving and working for the cause of Christ.

Gilbert currently serves as the full-time minister and chief servant of the Sheldon Heights Church of Christ on the south side of Chicago. He is also the founder and President of the International-American Medical Mission (IAMM), as well as the visionary behind and the chairman of the National Teachers Workshop (NTW) Gilbert was also the founder and previous chairman of the Greater Roseland-West Pullman (GRWP) Food Network. He also currently serves on the SwCC Board of Directors and as the newly appointed Director of the National Church of Christ Crusade.

Gilbert’s practical and academic path in nonprofit management began through his service with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), where he served as Vice-Chair and later became the board’s first African American Chairman—an experience that prompted his enrollment at North Park University (NPU). He earned his master's degree in Non-Profit Administration from NPU. With NPU, he has studied non-profit businesses in Seoul, South Korea; Hong Kong; Guangzhou, China; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul, Turkey; Athens, Greece; and Barcelona, Spain. His studies abroad have also been a blessing to his local ministry and community work.

In addition to being a devoted servant of God, Gilbert is a dedicated and loving family man. He is a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and oldest son who looks out for his family spiritually, physically, and emotionally. When he takes a moment to rest, Gilbert enjoys golf, fishing, bowling, and showing that he still “has game” in basketball. However, without a doubt, his greatest enjoyment comes from serving God.