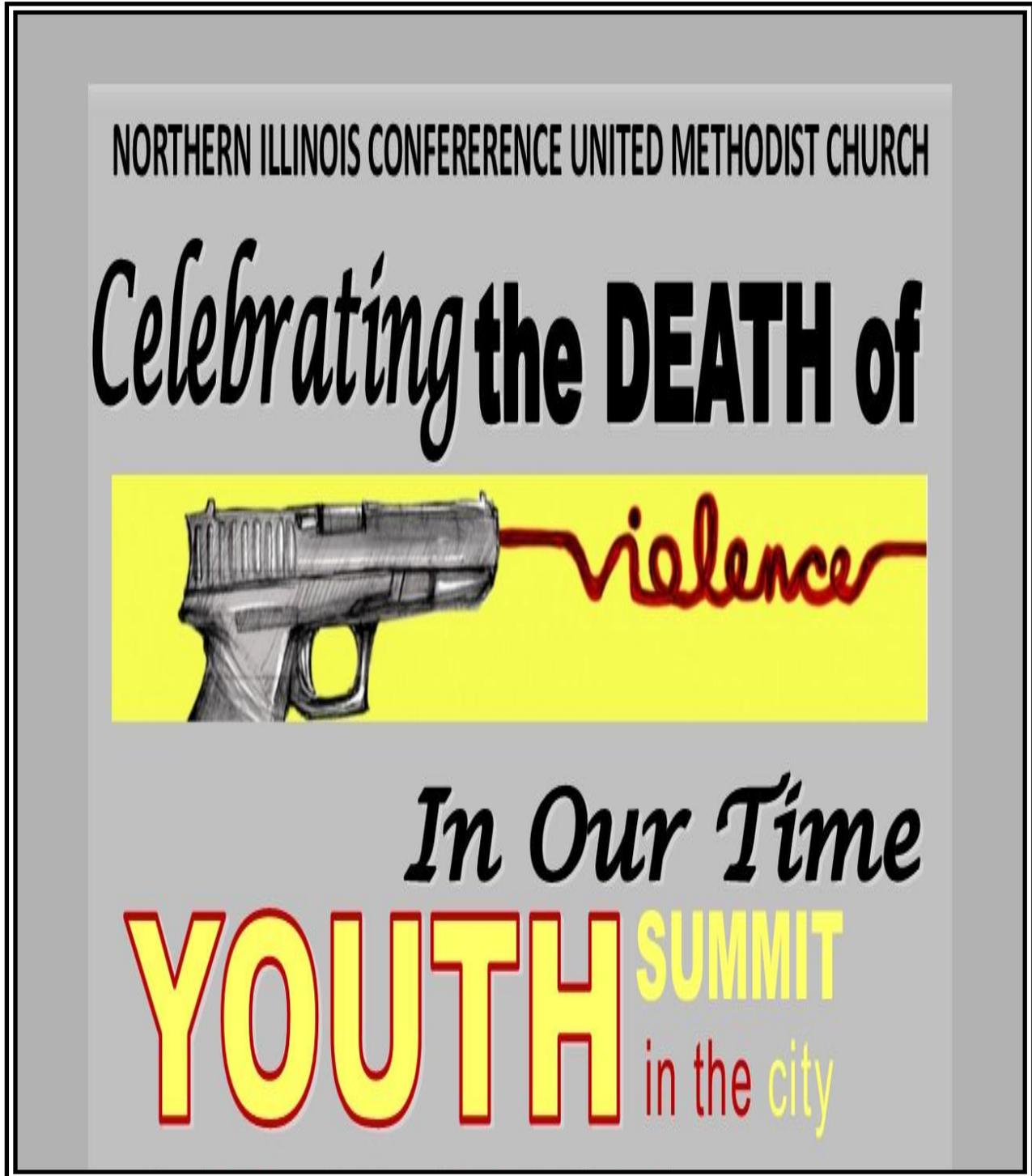


**Youth Summit in the City:
Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence in Our Time Report**



November 21, 2015

Hosted by St. Matthew United Methodist Church

**A Collaboration of Northern Illinois Urban Strategy & Conference Youth Ministry
Report Prepared by Northern Illinois Conference Chicago Urban Strategy**

<https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoUrbanStrategy>

**Youth Summit in the City:
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More than 80 youth from across the Northern Illinois Conference gathered at St. Matthew UMC on Chicago's near north side on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 in spite of the winter storm which blanketed the area with snow. This was the second annual youth summit organized by the Northern Illinois Conference Urban Strategy. This year's theme was **"Celebrating the Death of Hand Gun Violence in Our Time."**



NIC youth gathering for worship at Youth Summit in the City

With more than 400 homicides in Chicago thus far this year, the ripple effect of handgun violence and its collateral damage has reached epidemic proportions. Thus, there are those calling for it to be treated a public health issue said the summit organizers. This event is aimed at informing, inspiring and organizing youth to take action to prevent handgun violence in their schools and communities.

The Rev. Julian "J.Kwest" DeShazier, Senior Pastor of University Church Chicago, led worship and the KLAD Hornz band led a New Orleans style "second line" funeral procession.

In an article in the Northern Illinois Enews, Urban Ministry Coordinator, Rev. Robert Biekman said he was energized by the day's events and the commitment of the youth who braved the storm to come out and participate in the event. "I believe our youth really get it. Events like this invest in their lives," said Rev. Biekman. "I was particularly moved when during worship, preacher/rapper the Rev. Julian DeShazier encouraged youth to "get up" and make a difference and the youth took action by knocking down a wall made of blocks symbolizing the obstacles that are preventing us from realizing the end of gun violence."



Youth Leading worship as they read the names of Chicago communities with most victims of handgun violence



Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims of Handgun Violence Display featured the clothing of victims of handgun violence in Chicago

Youth also took part in action labs that focused on **"Healing Circles"**, **"Youth Organizing for Action"** and **"Remembering the Victims of Handgun Violence."** Each was designed to inform, resource and equip youth to make changes in their neighborhoods, churches and schools."

The Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence exhibit "Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims" of statues dressed in the clothing of victims of handgun violence was also on display at this event.

Kristin Kumpf, United Methodist General Board of Church & Society (GBCS)'s Director of Organizing attended the summit and said the event is a great start to find change. "I have for a long time been concerned by the violence on our streets and it's awesome that the youth are coming together saying there needs to be a change," she said. "That can happen as

**Youth Summit in the City:
Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence In Our Time
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part of the church when we come together as United Methodists across the city.”

Many of the youth said they knew someone who was impacted by gun violence or came wanting to learn more how they can make a difference in the city to make it safer. “I think we should write a letter to the President, senators and the Supreme court not to sell guns anymore,” remarked one girl. “I think we should do whatever it takes to prevent more deaths from gun violence and remember we are all gathered here as one body of Christ,” said another.



Bishop Sally Dyck greets youth as they register for event

Bishop Sally Dyck encouraged the youth to take what they learned at the summit back to their churches, communities, and families. “I hope this event is a time of encouragement and inspiration and you will keep and live out that hope everyday,” said Bishop Dyck.

Youth from across the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church which represents more than 60 faith communities from across the city of Chicago will gather on Chicago’s near north side for a Youth Summit in the City

Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence in Our Time.

Rapper/preacher Julian “JKwest” DeShazier (Senior Pastor University Church, Chicago) inspired youth to tear down the walls preventing the end of Handgun violence and to “Get Up” and take action.

Action Labs (workshops) were delivered in collaboration with Community Renewal Society (Youth Organizing for Action), Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims) and Community Justice Youth Institute (Healing Communities Through Restorative Justice).

It was planned for The KLAD Hornz band to lead a New Orleans style “second line” funeral procession to nearby Seward Park where handgun violence was to be “laid to rest” with Bishop



Youth erected a wall symbolizing those things which prevent ending hand gun violence.

Sally Dyck presiding and delivering a charge to youth. However, cold and snowy weather made it necessary to keep this activity indoors.



Youth Participate in Peace Circle led by Community Justice Youth Initiative

**Youth Summit in the City:
Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence In Our Time
November 21, 2015
St. Matthew United Methodist Church**

A summary schedule of the event is provided below a detail “run of the show” is provided at the end of this report.

Event Schedule

9 am - 10 am Registration & Activities

10 - 10:15 – Welcome

10:30 - 11:30 Action Lab I

11:30 - Noon - Lunch

12:15 - 1:15 - Action Lab II

1:15 -2:15 - Worship (Rev. Julian “J.Kwest” DeShazier Speaking)

2:15 - 2:30 - Public Action & Sending Forth (KLAD Hornz band)

Youth Summit in the City – Celebrating the Death of Hand Gun Violence in Our Time Saturday, November 21, 2015 10:00 am – 2:30 pm <i>(doors open at 9 a.m.)</i> St. Matthew United Methodist Church (1000 N. Orleans Avenue, Chicago, IL)				
PRE-EVENT TASKS (9 am Doors Open for Registration/Check-in) Parking across the street and additional Parking available at Union Missionary Baptist Church (940 North Orleans)				
Time	What’s Happening	Where is it happening	Who’s doing it	Comments
8:00	Design Team Arrives (if possible)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serenity Room Chaplains (Cook-Biekman, Ramiro Rodriguez) • Arriving at 7 am Set Up “Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims Exhibit) – Ky with ICAHV • Set up “Storeographer’s” Space (blue conference room/divider) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balloons to mark entrances – Lois Moreland-Dean • Leaders arrive by 8:00 am (if possible) to set up • Signage for Room/ Tables – Diana Davis • Set up “Prayer Chain Activity” – Barb Javore • Set up Serenity Room – Barb Javore & Kat Cook-Biekman

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9:00 am DOORS OPEN - REGISTRATION BEGINS						
9:00	Registration (entry foyer)	Prayer Chain	Breakfast OJ & Donut Holes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration – Entrance Area • B'fast & Prayer Chain Activity - Fellowship Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tondalaya Lewis Hozier & Rishona Taylor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration Forms (Rishona Taylor & Tondalaya Lewis Hozier)
9:50 am – Sounds of Judah Gathering Music						
10:00 am Program Begins						
10:00 am – 10:15	Gathering		Sanctuary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome 2. Opening Prayer 3. Purpose/Occasion 4. How UM is addressing HGV 5. Instructions Marching Orders 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rev. Jacques Conway 2. Youth - TBD 3. Bishop Dyck 4. Kristin Kumpf - GBCS 5. Diana Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions & Instructions
10:15 – 10:30	TRAVEL TIME to Session 1					
10:30 – 11:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Lab 1 – Youth Restoring Communities 2. Action Lab 2 – Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims (video required) 3. Action Lab 3 - Youth Organizing For Change 	Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Large Room	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Justice For Youth Initiative – Cheryl Graves 2. Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence – Mark Walsh 3. Cierra Walker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes time for Q&A (10 minutes) • Choose from 2 off 3 Action Labs 		
11:30 – 12 NOON Lunch of Pizza & Pop (Fellowship Hall)						
12:00 pm – 1 pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action Lab 1 – Youth Restoring Communities 2. Action Lab 2 – Not Forgotten: Remembering the Victims 3. Action Lab 3 - Youth Organizing For Change 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBD 2. TBD 3. TBD 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Justice For Youth Initiative – Cheryl Graves 2. Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence – Mark Walsh 3. Community Renewal Society - Cierra Walker 			
1:00 – 1:15 pm	TRAVEL TIME to Worship - Gathering Music Begins					

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1:15 – 2:15	Worship 1. Gathering Music 2. Prayer 3. Scripture 4. Reading of Cities of Mass Shootings 5. Reading Chicago Neighborhoods of 2015 shootings 6. Intro of Speaker 7. Ministry of Word – Tearing Down the Wall 8. Music by KLAD HORNZ	Sanctuary	1. Music by Sounds of Judah (St. Mark UMC) 2. Youth – TBD 3. Youth - TBD 4. Youth TBD 5. Youth TBD 6. Robert Biekman 7. Rev. Julian JKwest DeShazzier 8. “Second line”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connection for I-phone/Pad & Microphone ● Angel will identify youth ● Pall Bearer Gloves for 4 youth
2:15 – 2:30	Public Action 1. Pall bearers in place 2. Distribute crosses and signs 3. Walk to fellowship hall to fellowship hall 4. March to park If weather is an issue we will do a “committal” in the fellowship hall.	Orleans Avenue Alternate location fellowship hall	1. Distribute Pall bearers gloves 2. KLAD Horns Leading March to Seward Park (375 W. Elm St. Chicago, IL 60610) about 3/4 of block away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prayer Circle & Charge ● Carrying coffin ● Sign tops from event
2:30	Closing Prayer & Charge		Bishop Dyck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “Graveside service”



Some of the youth gathered at the Youth Summit



KLAD Hornz provided music for the New Orleans style “second line” home going celebration



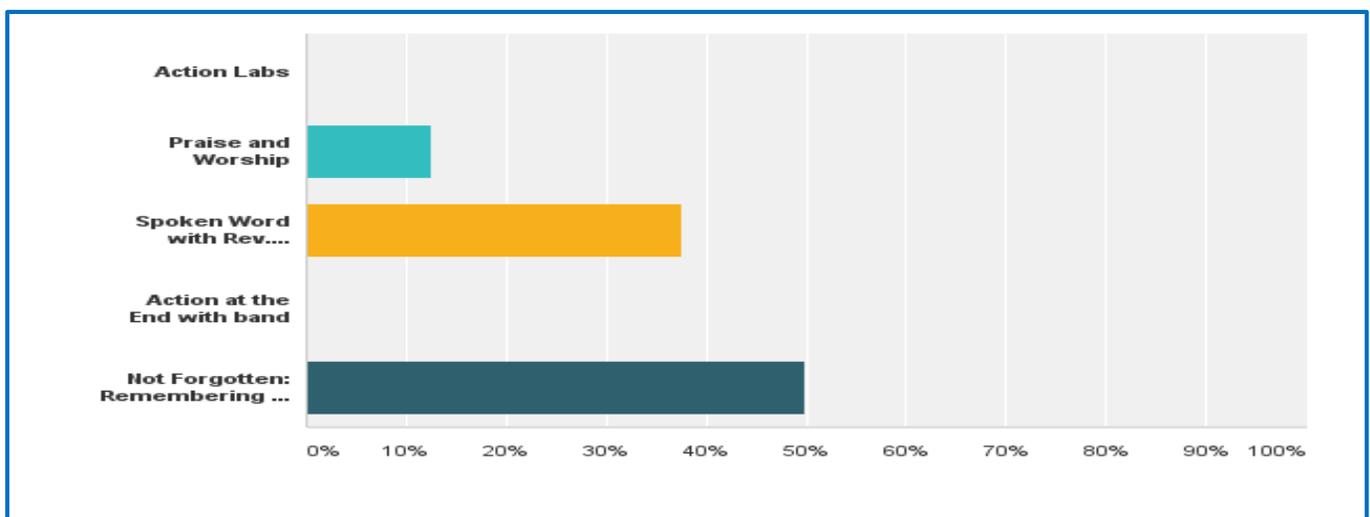
Youth leading worship at the Youth Summit

**Youth Summit in the City:
Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence In Our Time
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Youth Summit in the City Celebrating the End of Handgun Violence in Our Time Statistical Report	
Registered	108
Actual Attendance	87
Youth	68
Adults	19
Walk-Ins	20
Number of Churches Represented	15
Amor De Dios, Believers Covenant, Broadway UMC, Geneva UMC, Korean UMC of South Suburban Chicago, Life Changers International, Maple Park UMC, Neighborhood UMC, North Shore UMC, Resurrection UMC, Southlawn UMC, St. Mark UMC, St. Matthew UMC, St. Andrew UMC, Wesley UMC, Xperience Church	
Churches with 5 or more in Attendance	7
<i>Geneva UMC</i>	5
<i>Korean UMC of South Suburban Chicago</i>	10
<i>Neighborhood UMC</i>	11
<i>St. Mark UMC</i>	23
<i>St. Andrew UMC</i>	5
<i>St. Matthew UMC</i>	5
<i>Wesley UMC</i>	5

Event Evaluation

The following is a post event evaluation conducted using Survey Monkey. There were 16 (20%) respondents to the 80 evaluations that were sent out via email. Additionally, a two storeographers were on hand and recorded interviews of event participants on the day of the event. These interviews are posted on the [Chicago Urban Strategy](#) Facebook page.



**Youth Summit in the City:
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November 21, 2015
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Did You Attend the 2015 Youth Summit?

- a. 88.89-Yes
- b. 11.11- -NO

Part A.

1. Overall, how would you rate the event?

Very Satisfied- 25.00%

Satisfied- 75.00%

2. What did you like most about the event?

Comments:

Allowing the youth to talk and ask questions

I liked it all!

3. What did you like least about the event?

2/9 responses

50% action labs 50% Spoken Word

Comments:

I think every workshop should have had an action plan for youth and adults, something they could do to reach their peers and others.

There was nothing I liked least, I appreciated all of it. I did miss the band as I had to leave early.

Nothing

4. How engaging were the action labs?

8/9 responses



Rev. Julian "JKwest" DeShazier bringing the Word



Rev. Martin Lee (Director of Connectional Ministries) and youth receiving charge from Bishop Dyck



Pall bearers symbolically laying handgun violence "to rest."

**Youth Summit in the City:
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St. Matthew United Methodist Church**

	Very Engaging	Engaging	Neutral	Semi-engaging	Not engaging at all	N/A	Total
Creating Healing Communities (Community Justice for Youth Institute)	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8
Youth Organizing for Change (Community Renewal Society)	12.50% 1	25.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	62.50% 5	8
Not Forgotten: Advocating for Change (Illinois Council for Handgun Violence Prevention)	14.29% 1	57.14% 4	14.29% 1	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7

5. Please Rate the following:

8/9 responses

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very poor	Total
Location	57.14% 4	28.57% 2	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	7
Food	50.00% 4	37.50% 3	12.50% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8
Time	62.50% 5	37.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8
Program Length	62.50% 5	37.50% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8

6. Please list your suggestions on ways that we can improve this program.

To have a counselor available to speak with youth who were directly impacted violence.

Along with the pizza, have baskets of fruit and vegetables the kids could pick up and eat, along with some yogurt and granola bars. The kids attending were more likely to be victims than perpetrators, how do we reach the potential offenders and steer them to the right path?

**Youth Summit in the City:
Celebrating the Death of Handgun Violence In Our Time
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Add inter mingling activities so youth from different churches interact. Also include youth in some planning meetings.

Part 2

1/1 responses

1. I did not attend because...

Conflicting church event

2. Did you receive enough notice about this event?

100% Yes

3. What would you do to improve future Urban Strategy events?

Have more reminders

Design Team Members

The design team that planned and implemented this summit worked together on the 2014 Youth Summit in the City. The team included the following persons:

Rev. Robert E Biekman – NIC Urban Strategy/ Maple Park UMC

Kathryn A. Cook-Biekman – Maple Park UMC

Diana Davis – Broadway UMC

Angel Grant – Greater Englewood Parish UMC

Tondalaya Lewis Hosier – Wesley UMC

Rev. Barbara Javore – North Shore UMC

Lois Dean Moreland – St. Mark United Methodist Church