NATIONAL CLERGY GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION SUMMIT DISCUSSION GUIDE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020  ★  1PM–3PM EST

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Pastor Corey B. Brooks, CEO, Project H.O.O.D. Chicago
- Rev. Jeffrey Brown, President, Rebuilding Every Community Around Peace (RECAP), Boston
- Rev. Ciera Walker-Chamberlain, Executive Director, Live Free Chicago
- Bishop Kelvin L. Cobaris, Cobaris Ministries, Orlando
- Pastor Delonte Gholston, Lead Organizer, Peace Walk DC, Washington, DC
- Teny Gross, Executive Director, Institute for NonViolence Chicago
- Pastor Charles Harrison, President, Ten Point Coalition, Indianapolis
- Pastor Michael McBride, Director, LIVE FREE Campaign with Faith In Action, Los Angeles
- Pastor Devin Turner, Founder, Justice and Equality Inc., Washington, DC
- Dr. Wendy Coram-Vialet, Director, Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professionalism at the University of the Virgin Islands
- Councilman Willie Lightfoot, Chairman, ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition, Rochester, NY
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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 2nd National Clergy Gun Violence Prevention Summit which brings together faith leaders across the United States to take a critical look at the pandemic of gun violence that continues to plague our communities. Now more than ever, our country needs faith leaders to play an active role in combating this problem.

We are excited that you are joining this very timely and important conversation. Your time will be well-spent. Faith leaders of the National Clergy Gun Violence Prevention Coalition will share effective strategies and lessons learned from their experiences during the unprecedented 2020 Summer of a global pandemic, mass protests against police brutality and racial inequality, and uptick in gun violence in major cities.

This Discussion Guide was developed to help you get the most from your participation in the summit. The first section contains the program. The second section provides an overview of the summit experience with questions to guide your preparation for the summit, engagement during the summit, and action plan after the summit. The third section contains a short overview of the current state of gun violence in America. The fourth section announces the Clergy Protocol Guide, a cutting-edge tool created by the 67th Precinct Clergy Council Inc., “The GodSquad,” to help faith leaders provide clergy care to families of gun violence in a professional, caring and spiritual way.

We thank you for stepping out in faith and joining us on this journey to create communities and cities that are cared for in the best way possible. All we need to end gun violence in America is faith that it can be done, the will to act, and the tools to bring about change.

In partnership and faith,
Pastor Gil Monrose, Convener
(National Clergy Gun Violence Prevention Coalition)
THE PROGRAM

Opening Plenary

1:00PM - 1:30PM
- Invocation - Pastor Donnette Blake (New York)
- GodSquad Presentation - Pastor Louis Straker, Jr. (Brooklyn)
- Pastor Corey Brooks Video Presentation
- Rev. Ciera Walker-Chamberlain (Chicago)

1:30PM - 2:00PM
- Pastor Corey Brooks (Chicago)
- Pastor Charles Harrison (Indianapolis)
- Dr. Wendy Coram-Vialet (USVI)
- Rev. Jeffrey Brown (Boston)
- Bishop Kelvin Cobaris (Orlando)

2:30PM - 3:00PM
- GodSquad Video Presentation
- Rev. Delonte Gholston & Rev. Devin Turner (Washington, DC)
- Pastor Michael McBride (Los Angeles)
- Pastor Charles Galbreath (New York)
- Discussion
OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

As of August 24, 2020, the number of mass shootings (395) has surpassed the previous summer with a 45% increase. In America during 2019, 39,507 people died from gun violence. So far in 2020, 33,496 people have died at the hands of gun violence.

In the midst of a global pandemic and mass protests against police brutality and racial inequality, we have seen an increase of gun violence in major cities across the country. In New York City, there were 242 shootings in August 2020, compared to 91 in August of 2019. Similarly, in Chicago, 605 people have been killed this year, compared to 424 in 2019.

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American youth. According to the Center for Disease Control, Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than their White peers to die by gun homicide. According to the US Census Bureau, mass shootings happen disproportionately in majority-Black neighborhoods than in other neighborhoods.

The GodSquad continues to be on the frontline in response to this surge in gun violence. For example, the GodSquad took to the streets during Labor Day Weekend 2020 in solidarity with local elected officials and police officers. This collaborative effort helped to significantly reduce the number of violent incidents during the Labor Day Weekend.

Fortunately, our coalition partners have not backed down either. They will share detailed accounts of their work and discuss how they’ve acted as visionaries for change during this pivotal Summer of 2020 following the death of George Floyd. Our ultimate prayer and goal is to restore, heal, connect, recover, and empower our community to exist without violence. Now is the time for action, and we will be providing you with the tools to do so.
THE SUMMIT EXPERIENCE

This summit is centered around different battle-tested models on reducing gun violence through faith-based partnerships and a variety of community engagement. We are not presenting any model as preferred more than any other. The virtual 2-hour conversation will focus on three areas:

- The Role of Faith: How Do We Teach and Preach on Gun Violence
- The Hidden Effects of Gun Violence on Communities and Families
- Our Prophetic Voice in Response To Social Injustice and Police Reform

Before the Summit

Spending time in advance to prepare for this summit will make your participation more meaningful. Here are some pre-Summit discussion questions to help guide you through that process:

1. What are you hoping to learn from this summit?
2. What is the current vision of your organization?
3. What are the hidden effects of gun violence in your community?
4. How has gun violence affected the relational health between your community and law enforcement?
5. How should faith leaders work to prevent gun violence within our communities?
6. What do you believe is the role of faith when dealing with gun violence?
7. What does street-level engagement and on the ground outreach look like to you?
8. What are some faith-based best practices you have seen in your community and city?
During the Summit

1. Be an active participant.
   a. It can be tempting to slip in and out during a live event without participating, and remaining anonymous is even easier online. Resist that temptation! What you get out of this summit depends on what you put in.
   b. Introduce yourself in the chat and see what new connections you can make.
   c. Is there a topic that you’re interested in discussing? Start a conversation in the Zoom chat or Facebook comments.
   d. Do you have a question or comment? Don’t be shy. Post it in the Zoom chat or Facebook comment. This is your chance to network with the speakers, sponsors, organizers, and fellow attendees.

2. Take notes
   Note-taking is an effective tool that can improve your learning experience.
   So jot down notes as you enjoy the speakers.
After the Summit

As you reflect on your overall experience as a participant of this event, it is important to evaluate your organization’s performance and create an action plan. Here are some post-Summit discussion questions to help guide you through that process:

1. How has the recent surge in gun violence impacted your community?
2. In response to the recent spike in gun violence in your city, what has your organization done on the ground to engage your community?
3. As a faith leader, how can you be more proactive and effective in your service to survivors and perpetrators of gun violence and their families?
4. Based on what you heard during the presentations, how can your organization provide more effective support to those who have been directly impacted by gun violence?
5. From your perspective on the ground, what creates the conditions for these types of incidents to occur generally and currently in this moment?
6. What does healing from this type of trauma look like?
7. What information shared made you feel hopeful about the future?
8. What issues have not yet been addressed by your organization that you believe should be considered based on today’s presentations?
9. What section of the Summit stood out most to you? How do you think your organization can best implement the ideas shared?
10. After today’s Summit, do you believe your organization’s vision best reflects the needs of the community? If not, how can it be changed?
11. What tools or resources do you need to help you respond more effectively in your city?

Take a moment to reflect on or write about one insight from this Summit that is personally meaningful for you. Share if you are comfortable at the end of the sessions.
Over the past 10 years, the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, Inc., “The GodSquad,” has responded to numerous calls concerning gunshot victims and their families by supporting them with hospital visits, counseling sessions, prayer vigils, community walks, gun violence forums, and funeral services. We have taken our battle-tested strategies and best practices and created a cutting-edge and very practical tool to help you navigate the complexities when dealing with families affected by the tragedy of gun violence.

We are delighted to share with you the Protocol Guide published by the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, Inc., “The GodSquad”. As a faith leader, this guide will help you provide clergy care to families of gun violence in a professional, caring and spiritual way. Our goal and life’s work is to reduce the violence in the communities in which we serve as pastors and faith leaders. Gun violence coupled with the loss of life has a significant and traumatic effect on families and the community. The GodSquad has been proactive in our approach to the handling of survivors and families. Our experienced clergy team skillfully ministers to families in need of a loving, caring, and strong hand of support as we continue to serve as bridge builders between our cops, community, and congregations.

As you read through this guide, we pray that you will find the information useful and impactful to your work of caring for families in need. As you know, we are called to service those with the greatest needs and at the most vulnerable times of their lives. We believe that this resource will strongly position you to make a greater impact in the lives of these families as you serve the community that you love, serve and cherish. You can download your discussion guide and prevention tool-kit at www.67clergycouncil.org or request copies in quantity by contacting the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, 203 E. 37th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203, 646-779-6767, godsquad@67clergycouncil.org.
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