

16 Rev. Dr. Joe Phelps and Rev. Dr. Kevin Cosby - **What can faith communities do to transform the conversation about gun violence?** (Deans’ Hall)

Since 1979, the **Reverend Dr. Kevin Cosby** has served as Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Kentucky. In 1997, Dr. Cosby encouraged the church to purchase and convert into a lifestyle enrichment campus the original four-acre campus of Simmons University. When established in 1879, Simmons was the first black-owned and operated educational institution in the state of Kentucky and had lost the campus due to foreclosure during the Great Depression. In 2005, Dr. Cosby was named the 13th President of Simmons.

Rev. Dr. Joe Phelps Pastor of Louisville’s progressive Highland Baptist Church since March 1997 began using Advent’s Peace Sunday as a day to take action against gun violence by not only naming and mourning victims of violent murders each year but enjoining church members to place crosses on the church lawn as a telling reminder of Gods call to address violent deaths. Phelps is an expert on how dialogue can transform conflict into growth, authoring a book on the topic. He continues to lead workshops and conferences on this topic, which he considers a key issue in our world today. Dr. Phelps, a popular voice in interfaith dialogue and ecumenical efforts, is also an occasional guest columnist in the Louisville Courier-Journal and LEO, Louisville’s weekly alternative newspaper; and columnist for ethicsdaily.com.

17 Moms Demand Action and Million Mom March **Safety for legal gun owners and how parents can protect their children from gun accidents** (Bishops’ Hall). Carolyn Halcomb *Member/Volunteer Coordinator Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America, Kentucky Chapter and Luther Brown, Board4Change.*

Be Smart For Kids - Safe weapon storage in homes and vehicles to protect children from unintentional shootings. To educate parents/caretakers of simple steps to protect children.

The Ask (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign from The Metro Million Mom March

In 2000 **Luther Brown** committed to work for change in the community. He enrolled in the Neighborhood Institute, and later the Citizen’s Police Academy and the College of Planning and Zoning. His involvement increased, his network expanded, and he began serving his community. When a mother and her two year old daughter were shot in Luther’s neighborhood he chose to become more involved with ending gun violence. He now works the **Board4Change** in Louisville.

Carolyn Halcomb volunteered with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America 2 ½ years ago, after the tragic shooting at Newtown, Connecticut. “I was heartbroken and for the first time I realized my family was not safe. While I have always voted and supported education issues, I had never been active politically before. After Newtown I was shocked to learn about our nations lax gun laws and to realize that even the death of twenty elementary school children and six of their brave educators would not move our elected officials to act. I feel as though my eyes were closed to the gun violence in our communities. My eyes are open now and I can never be silent again.”

Closing Plenary (Sanctuary) **A Call to Action: Summary of Conference Highlights—What Happens Next??** Rev. Phil Lloyd Sidle. Closing statements and prayer.

Program Facilitators:

Marian McClure Taylor is a Presbyterian minister who has a PhD in political science and a work history that includes philanthropy, international church mission and ecumenical (church unity) affairs. She lives in Shelbyville.

Rev. Phil Lloyd-Sidle currently works for The Center for Women and Families. He is a Presbyterian minister having served James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church in Louisville for many years as well as worked in Philadelphia and Uruguay in South America.

1 Attica Scott (Plenary) - **Community Safety and Community Health: Using Data to Understand the Impact of Health Factors on Violent Crime**

Why is community safety important to community health? The number of homicides in Louisville are up dramatically this year and the number of total shootings is increasing. Accidents and violence affect health and quality of life in the short- and long-term for those directly and indirectly affected. Let’s take the data and move from dialogue to action.

This plenary session will support your community leadership role by:

- *Exploring the factors that influence community safety and health.*
- *Identifying opportunities for action using data, policies and community engagement.*
- *Learning to align health equity with advocacy and research.*
- *Using examples of data-informed decision-making to create communities that are healthier places to live, learn, work and raise a family.*

Attica Scott is a Community Coach for County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute).

Attica’s provides strategic guidance to communities that want to put the County Health Rankings into action for community health improvement. She is part of a team that develops online tools to connect communities to evidence-informed strategies, fosters peer learning, delivers technical assistance and training, and recognizes and celebrates health improvement. Attica served on Louisville Metro Council from 2011-2014 and was Adjunct Faculty at Jefferson Community and Technical College and at Bellarmine University. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

2 James Atwood (Plenary) - **Heeding God’s Call – America’s idolization of Guns and how to join together to stop the violence.**

3 James Atwood (Workshop - Sanctuary)- **How people of faith can change the narrative that violence brings peace by understanding the idols of power and deadly force and take action to confront it.**

Rev. Dr. James E. “Jim” Atwood, PCUSA (Ret.) has worked for over 40 years in gun violence prevention and is the author of *America and Its Guns: A Theological Expose* which was published in June 2012. He is a member of the Board of The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and served as its Chair for two terms. He also served as Interfaith Chair of The Million Mom March in 2000. He co-authored the Presbyterian Church’s comprehensive study on *Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God’s Call* which was adopted unanimously by the Presbyterian General Assembly in 2010. He is a member of the National Committee of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship . The 2014 General Assembly of the PCUSA named him “The Peace Seeker” of the year.

4 Survivor Stories (Deans Hall) - The ripple effect of gun violence on survivors and family members of victims from school shootings, street violence and suicide - Attica Scott, panel facilitator.

Hollan Holm was injured in the Heath High School shooting in 1997. Since then he has served as a spokesperson for an anti-gun violence advocacy group and presented his story to schools, educators conferences, and philanthropic events. He is an attorney and lives in Louisville with his wife and two children.

Darrick Smith knows firsthand the impact of violence in communities. He lost his father, his brother, and his aunt and cousin to violence. Smith was energized by the Ferguson Rebellion which “changed my life.” Since Aug. 9, 2014 he has created a community garden in his neighborhood, become an instructor for Freedom School, graduated from the Organization for Black Struggle Youth Leadership Fellowship Program, and has spoken across the country about his experiences. He intends to run for alderman in four years.

Shameka Parrish-Wright is an active volunteer, a West Louisville "Connector", a consultant and is working on a degree in Pan American Studies at the University of Louisville. She is also a mother who worries about the safety of her children in a world where she has seen too many African American friends die from gun violence.

Greg Tichenor teaches at JCPS and is involved with with the Social Responsibility Ministry at the Church of Epiphany. He will share his experience of losing his brother, Neal, who committed suicide Memorial Day of 1995.

5 The N.R. A Agenda: Access Denied (Bishops’ Hall) Connie Coartney with *Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America.* Over the last four decades, the leaders of the National Rifle Association have steered the organization from advocating on behalf of sportsmen and hunters toward lobbying for the most extreme policies which oppose all gun violence prevention legislation. In recent years, the NRA has worked tirelessly to prevent the passage of common-sense laws that would effectively keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people.

Connie Coartney is the Kentucky Advocacy Lead for Moms Demand Action for Gunsense in America. Mrs. Coartney became involved in the issue of gun violence prevention after the Sandy Hook Shootings in 2012. She has lobbied in Washington, D.C. and Frankfort in support of common sense gun legislation. She is also actively involved in Girl Scouts, and coordinates the Christian Education program at St. James Episcopal Church in Pewee Valley.

6 Rev. Alonzo T. Johnson and Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson

Rooted In Harm: Investigating root causes of gun violence in cultures of violence (i.e. crime, domestic and trauma) and investigating the spiritual and moral issues needed to address them. (Sanctuary)

Session will feature:

- Exploring the root causes of violence and how to address them
- Examining metrics that provide facts and statistics about forms of gun violence
- Learning about trauma and the cultures of violence that aggrandize harm and ill treatment
- Investigating the spiritual and moral dimensions of violence reduction

Rev. Alonzo Johnson, is the current New Mission Associate with the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and former pastor of an urban church in Philadelphia, PA. He is a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS). Passionate about peacemaking and social justice issues, he has rich experience in urban ministry, prison ministry, and youth/ education ministry.

Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson is pastor of Shawnee Presbyterian Church and serves on the faculty of Simmons College.

7 *Barriers to common sense Gun Legislation in Kentucky* (Deans' Hall). Mary Lou Marzian (KY House District 34), Joni Jenkins (KY House District 44), Reginald Meeks (KY House District 42). These representatives from Jefferson County face an uphill battle as they try to promote sensible gun legislation against the powerful gun lobby in Frankfort and the regrettable hostility to Louisville urban issues by the rest of the state. They will discuss current gun laws in Kentucky, the process of presenting legislation and give examples of how bills related to sensible gun regulations rarely make it to a vote.

Mary Savage is Legal Counsel for The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence. KCADV and its members advocate for changes in state laws to help victims of domestic violence. The group's efforts have helped pass legislation addressing warrantless arrest, emergency protective orders, and marital rape. She will share examples of laws regarding guns that affect the issue of domestic violence.

8 Elizabeth Vega- Artist STL. ***Art, Healing and Emotional Justice (Bishops' Hall)*** Creative ideas for emotional healing and non-violent community actions used in Ferguson and Baltimore.

- Understand the complex social issues that contributed to the Ferguson Rebellion.
- Obtain a working knowledge of creative strategies used to foster emotional justice in communities impacted by violence. Learn how art can enhance resilience and foster meaning in communities impacted by violence.

Elizabeth Vega is a Chicana activist, blogger, community artist and founder of the Artists, a direct action group that utilizes art, courage and creativity to end police repression. Vega, a full-time graduate student in UMSL's clinical mental health program, is committed to using art, writing and presence to facilitate emotional justice in communities impacted by violence. A performance poet who represented St. Louis at the National Poetry Slam in 2002 and 2003, Vega is a graduate of the St. Louis Regional Arts Commission Community Art Training Institute. She has taught creative writing extensively in schools, nursing homes, homeless shelters and juvenile detention centers. Her community art projects include Art in Canfield, a pop-up art space that used creativity to foster emotional justice, Word in Motion, a public video installation and performance with Loyola Academy and Peter & Paul Transitional Shelter, Visible Work/Invisible Workers, a multi-media banner of photography and writing created in collaboration with janitorial staff and commissioned by Jobs with Justice. Vega is known for creating a Dia De Los Muertos Community Offrendas and most recently installed a guerilla altar in Ferguson for victims of police violence.

9 (Plenary - Sanctuary) Louisville Police Chief Conrad / Anthony Smith, Director- Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods

Local efforts through LMPD and One Love Louisville to create trust and safety in our community

Youth Report Out on their Friday Night Summit on Sowing a Non-Violent Louisville

Steve Conrad has been Police Chief of the Louisville Metro Police Department since his return to Louisville in March 2012. He began his career in 1980 as a patrol officer with the Louisville Division of Police and worked his way through the ranks before being named Assistant Police Chief in 2003. His career highlights include managing the merger of the city and county police departments and leading community policing efforts in the late 1990s. Conrad left the LMPD to become the Police Chief in Glendale, AZ in December 2005. There he successfully planned for and managed a number of high profile sporting events including the annual Fiesta Bowl and Super Bowl XLII (42). Chief Conrad received a Bachelor of Science degree in Police Administration and a Master of Science degree in Community Development, both from the University of Louisville.

Anthony Smith knew when he walked across the college graduation stage that he wanted to devote his life to ensure that everyone in the community had the best opportunity to succeed. He has spent his lifetime building skills suited for a Director for Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods. He knows Louisville, its struggles and possibilities, and has credibility in board rooms and in the community. Under Anthony's leadership, the One Love Louisville: Be the One to Make a Difference campaign was developed. It is an all hands on deck action plan, calling on each of us to take an active role in making Louisville a city of safe neighborhoods where all citizens feel secure, supported, and prepared for lifelong success.

10 (Plenary – Sanctuary) Jan Arnow, Author: ***In the Line of Fire: Raising Kids in a Violent World*** and Sharon Pearson, Author: ***Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace-What Churches Can Do***

11 Sharon Pearson ***Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence*** (Sanctuary)

As people of faith we are called to follow in the steps of Jesus to proclaim peace in a world of violence. Learn how four pillars (advocacy, education, liturgy, and skill building) can be key avenues for our churches to address the culture of violence in our communities. Hear the prophetic voices of leaders in our country and walk away with tools you can use to make a difference in your home, church, and community.

Sharon Ely Pearson is an editor and Christian Formation Specialist with Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI) and has thirty-five years of experience in Christian formation on the local, judicatory and church-wide level. She is the author/editor of *Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence* (Morehouse, 2015). A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and a lifelong Episcopalian, she lives in Norwalk, Connecticut. She blogs at www.rowsfsharon.com

12 Jan Arnow ***The Whys – and Why Nots – of Community Violence*** (Deans' Hall)

How do we build consensus to address community violence in the world we are creating? We cannot wait for governmental grants to appear, for everyone on our block to join up, or for our leaders to give us the go ahead. Each of us needs to believe that we can make change happen. This interactive break-out session will explore the history of how violence has become so endemic in our communities and examine ways to stop it. Participants will gain ideas and strategies to share with others in our communal quest to create more peaceful communities.

Learn to confront our despair

Acknowledge that our fears will not go away (on their own)

Develop the courage and willingness to talk publicly about our concerns

Accept the responsibility to do so.

Jan Arnow is the founder and executive director of Innovations in Peacemaking International, and is an internationally recognized lecturer and authority on multicultural education, violence abatement, prejudice reduction, creativity, and leadership. She is a highly respected and award-winning author of eight books and scores of articles for a variety of national magazines. She is currently working on a teachers' and community guide to *In the Line of Fire: Raising Kids in a Violent World*, and a new peace curriculum for schools, houses of worship, and neighborhood centers. She also travels to carry her violence abatement strategies to communities throughout the world.

13 Violence: *Building Relationships Across Racial Lines By Being There for Each Other* (Bishops' Hall) Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice, Black Lives Matter, Stand Up Sunday and UofL Muhammad Ali Institute for Social Justice

We will explore opportunities to be allies with people most affected by gun violence through groups like Stand Up Sunday, Black Lives Matter and Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice. This interactive session will examine the challenges for those relationships through the lens of institutional racism which often prevents us from working together as organizations and communities. We will include a discussion of the stereotypes that keep people from engaging with others.

- Recognize different experiences and perspectives, and how structural racism and racial stereotypes connect with gun violence. Learn how can people from less impacted areas, in particular, white people, can reach other white people, show up in accountable ways, and work toward a common goal across lines of difference?

Chanelle Helm and Leroy Gough are with Stand Up Louisville, which is part of the Black Lives Matter movement. **Shameka Parish-Wright** is with the Braden Center Board and Women in Transition. **David Horvath and Carla Wallace** are with Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice.

14 Michael Whiting ***The NonViolence Handbook and the Daily Metta.*** (Choir Room)

Resources we need for building a non-violent city and an intentional community of peace. Learn how Nonviolence is shaping the evolution of humanity's future as never before. Discover your personal role in enhancing a higher human image by being a part of Louisville's nonviolent intentional community using the tools of the Metta Center for Nonviolence.

Michael Whiting is a student of nonviolence with the Metta Center for Nonviolence and a meditation and a facilitator with the Blue Mountain Center for Mediation.

Session limited to 25 persons.

15 Rev. Mitra Jarfazadeh ***Restoring Community after the Trauma of Gun Violence*** (Sanctuary)

Reverend Mitra Jarfazadeh will share her experience and insight based on ministering to faith communities affected by gun violence. Learn what one Unitarian congregation learned about grief and healing when gun violence struck in the midst of a worship service. She will share her perspective on the diversity of faiths including atheism. This will include time for small group discussions and large group wrap-up.

Reverend Mitra Jarfazadeh has helped faith communities heal from a variety of violence trauma. She is currently pastoring at St. John's Unitarian Universal Church, Cincinnati, OH.