



Standing Our Holy Ground Webinar Series

The Racial Divide in Gun Violence

March 5, 2020 at 1 pm (EST)

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Within our nation's cities, black Americans are, on average, eight times more likely to be killed by firearms than those who are white. In fact, Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide. Yet, in discussions of gun violence and gun control, the conversation often overlooks the gun violence experienced by black communities. This episode of "Standing Our Holy Ground" will explore this racial divide in gun violence and discuss how people of faith can take action to address gun violence while lifting up the voices of those who experience it the most.

Panelist Background



The Rev. Dr. R. Drew Smith earned his undergraduate degree from Indiana University, and earned his Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, and Ph.D. from Yale University. Both a political scientist and a clergyman, he has initiated and directed a number of projects related to religion and public life which have collected research data on political involvements, community development activities, and outreach ministries of churches, especially African-American churches. He also has served since 2010 as co-convenor of the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race, an initiative that convenes scholars, religious leaders, and community activists from across the transatlantic region for purposes of advancing progressive approaches to persistent racial problems in various contexts.



Rev. Robert Hoggard earned his bachelor's degree from American Baptist College and his Master's degree from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School--both in theological studies. In his Master's thesis, he explored bridging the gap between the #BlackLivesMatter Movement and the Black church. Robert leads the board at Metro Justice as its Vice-President. In his role, he is assisting in the formation of the Rochester Police Accountability Board and pushing for an end to cash bail and new discovery and speedy trial laws. He's also earning his Ph.D. in education at the University of Rochester. His dissertation is where the K-12 education system, public policy, workforce development, and higher education meet. It will explore P-TECH, a grade 9-14 model where students earn the necessary academic, technical, and professional skills to compete in the workforce. Robert fights to see an education system that prepares Black and Brown people for college or work rather than the street corner or the prison system.