

URBAN METHODIST YOUTH CAMP 2015



On August 2nd through 7th, 113 youth, 36 counselors and support staff, including 7 youth leaders, converged on the Judson Collins Campsite. The Urban Methodist Youth Camp is a week-long fun, affordable,



Christian overnight camp event for youth aged 12-18. This year, youth from 15 urban United Methodist churches participated. 16 Campers came from Brightmoor Aldersgate UMC with scholarship help from the Redford Brightmoor Initiative (RBI).

Camp Pastor, Albert Rush, from Eastpointe: Emmanuel UMC focused on the theme, "God's Transforming Love," based on 1 Corinthians 13. During the week he taught that God's love is incredible, invincible, unconditional, faithful, and real.

Campers choose a particular intensive sport or activity (Basketball, Cardio, Cheerleading, Dance, Flag Football, Golf, Soccer and Volleyball) that they participated in every morning.



Late morning, before lunch, campers choose a workshop which, this year, included: *My Voice Counts 1* (Poetry Slam) - Rev. Jeff Nelson; *Safe, Safer, Safest* - Shannon Zakery-Wilson (Grand Rapids African American Health Institute); *"God Is Calling Me to What?!"* (Call to ministry exploration) - Rev. Laura Speiran; *My Voice Counts 2* - Hakim Crampton (Amen 4 Youth); *Weight Management* - GRAAHI; *Credit, Banking & Investing, Internet Savvy* - Kevin Butts; *Exploring Your Identity Through Art: Self-Portraits* - Sonya Luna; *What You*

Need to Know About Drugs GRAAHI; and a Youth Safety Forum moderated by the Detroit Renaissance District Superintendent, Rev.



Dr. Charles S.G. Boayue, II. Others on the Panel included, James Buford - Director of Homeland Security (Retired), Hakim Crampton, Rev. Patricia Gandarilla, Lois Holman – Social Worker, Attorney Lisa Martin, Rev. Tom McCauley – Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, Frank McGhee – Neighborhood Services Organization, Pastor Albert Rush, Pastor Esrom Shaw, and Rev. Dr. Darryl Totty.



In the afternoons, groups choose from a long list of fun activities including: Ga Ga Pit, Boating, High Ropes, Arts and Crafts, challenges, cook-outs, fishing and more.



New this year, the Urban Methodist Youth Camp has expanded to a year-long program called the Urban Youth Alliance. Youth officers were elected at camp. Activities and programs for the year were discussed. Kimberly Rice (Camp MC) will lead Choir/Arts activities during the year and Charles Boayue, III (Camp Activities Dean) will lead Sports/Challenges and other activities during the year. A choir was formed at camp and the first engagement will be the installation celebration for Renaissance District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Charles Boayue, Jr. on September 20, 2015.

