Strong Cities Network

PITTSBURGH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

SAVE THE DATE

Building and Maintaining Cohesive and Connected Cities in Times of Crisis and Division

A US Mayoral Retreat

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
August 5 – 7, 2026

The **Strong Cities Network**, in partnership with the **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary** and in cooperation with Mayor Corey O'Connor and the City of Pittsburgh, will host our third annual US Mayoral Retreat from **August 5 – 7, 2026 on the campus of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**. Participants will be expected to arrive in the late afternoon of the 5th and depart after lunch on the 7th.

Through panel discussions, breakout sessions, and inspiring keynotes, mayors, and other local elected leaders, and city officials from across the country will share with and learn from each other about city-led approaches and innovations needed to maintain social cohesion and enhance community resilience in times of crisis, and more broadly about how to build and sustain strong cities. Particular attention will be given to how mayors, local officials, and governments can best engage and partner with faith communities and local institutions across their cities on this work.

The Third US Mayoral Retreat will also include sessions on:

- Promoting community safety and well-being: ensuring city-led efforts to prevent hate are driven by the needs and concerns of community members.
- Engaging youth, including through schools and universities, as partners in building cohesive and connected cities, and what it takes to turn that engagement into lasting, community-wide change.
- Building a local prevention ecosystem: leveraging local institutions (e.g., hospitals, universities, faith communities, libraries, museums, and other cultural centers) and community-based organizations to promote the safety and well-being of all residents.

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- Navigating tensions with other levels of government in times of rising polarization and division
- Restarting dialogue and repairing community relationships ruptured by global and other crises.

An official invitation and a provisional agenda will follow shortly. In the meantime, you are kindly requested to save the date in your calendar and to **register your interest in attending here.** When you register, please indicate whether you will require travel support in order to be able to attend. Please note that we have limited funds for such support and will not be in a position to accommodate all requests.

Should you have any questions about this event please contact Katie Wells, US Program Manager, Strong Cities Network (kw@strongcitiesnetwork.org).

About Strong Cities

Launched in September 2015 and hosted by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, Strong Cities is an independent global network of more than 290 cities – including nearly 40 in the United States. It facilitates sharing and learning among mayors and local leaders on how to tackle some of the most pressing threats to social cohesion facing cities today. Through peer learning, the Network seeks to unlock the full potential of cities in prevention and city-led incident response, with a focus on multi-actor and whole-of-society frameworks. The Network also works to amplify the voices of cities and local leaders at the national and international levels so that national and global policies to mitigate growing intolerance and increasing threats to community safety are informed by those closest to the ground. Learn more about the Network's mission, approach and engagement philosophy here.

About the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

With a centuries-old history of mission, scholarship and service, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is committed to relationships of mutual learning and serving with other faith traditions and theological viewpoints. With its urban campus and proximity to Pittsburgh's tech and education sectors, the Seminary's history, mission, and resources provide a rich context for this mayoral retreat in a city that has so much to share about response and resilience. Learn more about the Seminary here.

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