

THE CHURCH IN URBAN LIFE PROJECT

From 1950 to 1965 Judson Memorial Church ran an annual summer program for Baptist college students from outside New York City. Students applied from all over the country, and a group of between fifteen and twenty was selected to spend a summer in New York City.

The program was run by various directors who were not on the regular Judson staff, although the senior minister was involved in setting up the study program. Each program had a different theme, but all related to the church in an urban setting. The students lived at Judson House. Upon arrival in mid-June, the first task was to find a job for the ten weeks each would be in New York. The evenings were filled with reading and discussions and lectures by well-known people. On weekends, the students took advantage of New York's beaches, attended plays, and hung out in coffeeshouses and jazz bars.

The Judson archives contain reports for the institutes of 1955, 1956, and 1961. From these reports and from the testimonials that follow, it is clear that the Urban Institutes left a lasting mark on the participants.
