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# Obituary: Wayne Younger, pastor of Cityview Church, affordable housing advocate

Aug. 21, 1969 - March 9, 2026



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Wayne Younger always sought to have an “urban impact.” That interest and desire fueled his interest in ministry on his native North Side — not just with his church but also with other organizations tasked with lending a hand to uplift people there.

Mr. Younger, co-pastor and co-founder with his wife, Leanne, of Cityview Church and executive director of Open Hand Ministries, died March 9 of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a rare degenerative brain disorder. He had started displaying symptoms in December. The East Allegheny resident was 56.

Raised in Manchester and an alumnus of Langley High School and Asbury University in Kentucky, Mr. Younger’s involvement in urban ministry started early.

While still in high school, he got involved with the youth group at Allegheny Center Alliance Church, a then-growing evangelical congregation that had just committed to urban ministry.



**Bob Batz Jr.**  
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That would lead him to involvement with Urban Impact, a ministry originally founded through the church and, with his wife, to head up family ministries at ACAC for five years before they left to found Cityview Church, named for a former Port Authority bus route, in 2010.

“We were motivated to create a space that we described as an intersection where everyone could meet, everyone was actively welcome,” said Ms.



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Younger, also a co-pastor at Cityview Church.

From the start, the church intended “to build community beyond the Sunday service,” Ms. Younger said, noting it offered lunch after services.

It also operated the Tripoli Street Community Center, which Ms. Younger said was “our alter ego” and which rented space to mothers for birthday parties and holds a food giveaway every Wednesday through the North Side Food Pantry Alliance. It also hosts the group Ìyá Pittsburgh, which offers perinatal services to, among others, low-income folks and those in the LGBTQ+ community.

Mr. Younger served as executive director of the Pittsburgh Project, the Christian nonprofit community organization that focuses on investing in future leaders, and as a diversity director for the Coalition for Christian Outreach, an evangelical campus ministry.

But he was arguably most proud of his work as executive director of Open Hand Ministries, which focuses on “building generational wealth as well as affordable homeownership,” according to Heather List, president of its board of directors. Among other things, the organization runs financial education workshops and renovates vacant properties, according to its website.



Chloe Jad

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“His enthusiasm, his energy and passion for our community affected all he did. He had really big goals [as to] what the organization could do,” Ms. List said.

Instrumental in forging partnerships, “he was really a dreamer [in] coming alongside of people to lift up the families in our community.” she said.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Younger is survived by three children, Wayne Shaw Younger, at home, Isaiah Younger, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Kayla Younger, of Marshall-Shadeland; two sisters, Belinda Mills, of East Allegheny, and Dawn Renee Younger, of Downtown; and a brother, Tyrone Younger, of East Allegheny. He was preceded in death by a brother, Parish Younger.

Contributions can be made to Cityview Church, Open Hand Ministries or the Wayne Younger Family Fund c/o Charity Wahrenberger, P.O. Box 4621, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. March 28 in the Community Hub of Allegheny Center Alliance Church, 250 E. Ohio St.

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