

Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence

Whereas firearms are the leading cause of death for children in the US, in Pennsylvania someone is shot every two hours, and Black Pennsylvanians are 21 times more likely to be killed by a gun than their fellow Pennsylvanians who are white; and

Whereas over 100 Episcopal Bishops have joined Bishops United Against Gun Violence, which led a demonstration of hundreds of people after a killing in Baltimore near the 2022 General Convention; and

Whereas, more than fifteen times, The Episcopal Church has passed resolutions supporting measures to reduce gun violence, therefore be it

Resolved that members of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh should inform themselves of bills intended to reduce gun violence by methods suggested in these resolutions, such as extreme risk-prevention (red-flag) laws, and laws requiring background checks, reducing the availability of assault weapons, restricting “ghost guns,” and preventing gun trafficking, should educate others about such bills, should consult the website www.bishopsagainstgunviolence.org for more information, and should contact their congresspeople in support of such efforts, and further be it

Resolved that Episcopal parishes in our diocese should host or co-host Violence Awareness Days, services of lamentation such as Bishops Against Gun Violence have posted on their website, and/or the Memorial to the Lost, a t-shirt display to honor victims of gun violence and their families, as has been done by four Episcopal parishes in our diocese and 24 in Eastern and Central Pennsylvania; and that

Information about pending bills against gun violence should be posted in the Grace Happens email newsletter and/or through a link on the diocesan website; and that

Members of the Pittsburgh Diocese are urged to consult the website of the Episcopal Public Policy Network www.episcopalchurch.org/staff/eppn/ for more information about this and other issues.

Explanation: Part of our vocation to be peacemakers in the world today is to reduce access to weapons that can cause targeted, random, and mass deaths, including suicides; see above.

Originator: Marilyn Mulvihill, St. Brendan's, 111 Victory Lane, Sewickley, 15143; 412 427 2715; mimi15143@yahoo.com

Second Sponsor, Diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee, Marianne Novy, Redeemer, chair, 5659 Marlborough Road, Pittsburgh 15217, 412 328 5540; mnovy@pitt.edu