



RESOLUTION ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Approved by the St Mark's Outreach Board on September 18, 2018

WHEREAS, our scriptures and faith tradition recognize the sacredness of every human being;

WHEREAS, in our baptismal vows we commit to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being;

WHEREAS, residents of the United States ("U.S.") are 25 times more likely to be shot and killed with guns than people in other high-income countries¹.

WHEREAS, gun-related deaths and injuries in the U.S. are at epidemic proportions in that on an average day in 2016, 105 Americans were killed with guns²;

WHEREAS, 8 children and teens (age 19 or under) were killed with guns in the U.S. on an average day in 2016³;

WHEREAS, gun violence disproportionately affects Black Americans who in 2016 made up 14% of the U.S. population but were victims of more than half of all gun homicides^{4,5};

WHEREAS, in 2016, 59% of gun-related deaths were suicides^{6,7};

WHEREAS, during the years 2012-2016, over 65% of homicides in Washington, D.C., were committed with a firearm and in 2016 the percentage of homicides by firearm was 77%⁸;

WHEREAS, the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church passed a resolution on February 27, 2013, expressing profound sorrow at the epidemic of gun violence in our communities and urged Episcopalians to work toward comprehensive social responses that seek to stem the cycles of violence that fuel gun crime⁹;

WHEREAS, the Episcopal House of Bishops issued a statement on March 7, 2018, restating their commitment to work for safe gun legislation and pledging themselves to bring the values of the Gospel to bear on a society that increasingly glorifies violence and trivializes the sacredness of every human life¹⁰;

WHEREAS, reducing gun violence in our communities and in our nation will require action at the national, state, and local levels of government to adopt sensible gun laws;

WHEREAS, reducing gun violence in our communities and in our nation will also require a coordinated effort by law enforcement, mental health professionals, community leaders, and faith communities to promote a culture of gun safety, public health solutions, and strategies to make our communities safer;

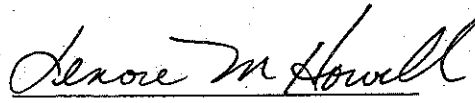
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Rector, the Wardens, and the Vestry commit St Mark's Episcopal Church to pursue sustained efforts and strategies intended to address and reduce gun violence in our community and in our nation. Such efforts will include:

- Proclaiming and upholding a vision of a world free of all forms of violence and weapons of violence;
- Supporting gun control and other legislation at the federal, state, and local levels that contributes to a reduction in gun violence;
- Working with other faith communities and community organizations to promote mental health strategies and public health solutions to curb gun violence; and
- Continuing to educate and engage parishioners in advocacy and actions that prevent gun violence.

Approved by the Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill

September 24, 2018


The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, Rector


Nora Howell, Senior Warden

1 Grinshteyn, Erin, & Hemenway, David, (2016). Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income OECD Countries, 2010. *The American Journal of Medicine*, 129, 266-273.

2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, Ages 0 - 19*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Homicide Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Homicide Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, Black, Both Sexes, All Ages*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

6 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

7 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016). *2016, United States Suicide Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000, All Races, Both Sexes, All Ages*. Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>

8 Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department (2017). *2016 Annual Report of the Metropolitan Police Department*, p. 27. Retrieved from <https://mpdc.dc.gov/node/1297881>

9 https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/executive_council/EXCresolution.pl?exc_id=EXC022013.20

10 <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-house-bishops-meeting-retreat-accepts-statement-gun-violence>