Religion and Gun Violence

This Resource Page provides Data, Congregational Resources, and Policy positions of numerous churches and religious organizations related to the Consortium. We welcome suggestions for additional resources, as religious communities across America respond in witness, love and justice to recent mass shootings. (December 2012)

Snapshot of Religious Attitudes toward Gun Violence:


When asked if they favored or opposed stricter gun control laws, the most support for stricter laws came from black Protestants (71%) Catholics (59%) and the unaffiliated (55%). But solid opposition was expressed by white evangelical Protestants (60%). Only mainline Protestants were more divided (47% favor, 51% oppose).”

From “Faith and Reason” USA Today July, 2012
In Response to Recent Shootings (December 2012)

Catholic Leaders Express Support [Link]

Dean of National Cathedral Sermon: [Link]

Episcopal Response to Newton, CT shootings [Link]

Clergy Respond to School Shooting [Link]
Study Guides and Worship Resources for Congregations and Local Communities:

“What Your Church Can Do about Gun Violence” (Baptist Peace Fellowship) [Link]

“Preventing Gun Violence” Study Guide (Mennonite): [Link]

“Gun Violence, Gospel Values” Study Guide, Presbyterian Church (USA): [Link]

“Gun Violence Prevention Worship Resources” (PCUSA): [Link]

“A Litany on the Tragedy of Gun Violence” [Link]

“Supporting Those who Grieve”: [Link]

Hymns on Gun Violence and Peace (ecumenical): [Link]

“God not Guns Worship Guide” (The Brady Center) [Link]

“Overcoming Violence” Study Guide, United Church of Christ: [Link]

Church and Denominational Positions on Gun Violence:

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church:

Social Action Commission [Link]

AME Resolution (2012) [Link]

Baptist Churches:


Progressive National Baptists: Call for Ban on Assault Weapons: [Link]

Southern Baptist Convention, Article 2012: [Link]

ABP News articles

Guns a pro-life issue. (2012) [Link]

Guns in Sunday School? (2011) [Link]
Church of the Brethren:

“Take Action to Prevent Gun Violence” (2011) [Link]

Action letter to representatives: [Link]

Episcopal Church:

Bishop of Chicago Speaks Out (2012) [Link]

Episcopal Peace Fellowship: [Link]

Lutheran:

ELCA statement on “Community Violence” (1994): [Link]

Article “Swords, Plowshares and Guns in Church” (2010): [Link]

Mennonite:

“Faith-based Approaches to Gun-Violence Prevention” [Link]

Methodist:

United Methodist Church Resolution (2012) [Link]

“Gun Violence: United Methodist Church,” 2000, 2008: [Link]

Presbyterian:

Presbyterian Church USA Summary of Positions: [Link]

Resources on Preventing Gun Violence (PCUSA): [Link]

Roman Catholic:


“Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration” (USCCB, 2000) [Link]

Article on Church’s position (2011): [Link]

Jesuits: Article (2012) [Link]

United Church of Christ: [Link]
Ecumenical Resources:

Christian Century: “Can We Talk about Guns” (2012) Link

“Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence” (National coalition): Link

Faiths United Letter to Congress (2011): Link

Heeding God's Call (Ecumenical coalition in PA, MD, DC): Link

National Council of Churches of Christ:

Join Interfaith Call to End Gun Violence (2000) Link

Resolution and Call to Action: “Ending Gun Violence” Link

North Carolina Council of Churches: “How Long Shall I Cray Oh Lord” Link

Pennsylvania Council of Churches: Resolution to Prevent Gun Violence Link

Reform Judaism:

Central Conference American Rabbis Resolution (1999): Link

Reform Judaism General Assembly Resolution (1999) Link

Article (2011): “Gun Control vs. Gun Rights” Link

Article (2012): Jews and Guns Link

Religion News Service “Is Gun Control a Religious Issue” Link

Public Resources:

The Brady Center to Prevent GunViolence: Link

God not Guns Worship Guide: Link

CDC “First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies
Preventing Violence: Firearms Laws” [Link]

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (a network of scientific, professional, religious and community organizations) [Link]

Huffington Post “God, Guns, and the Church” (2012): [Link]


Public Religion Research Institute: Poll on Religious Groups and Guns (2012) [Link]

Violence Policy Center “Murder-Suicide” Study (2002): [Link]

Updated December 2012