

CAPE COD COUNCIL *of* CHURCHES

STATEMENT ON GUN VIOLENCE

OCTOBER 2022

Due to the increase of gun violence in our nation and its prevalence in many locations (schools, places of worship, grocery stores, parades and more) the Cape Cod Council of Churches encourages intelligent readiness, making our faith communities aware of safety issues and to take steps to be prepared, beginning with prayer, not as a substitute for action.

Let us also gather our resolve and raise our voices against racism and bigotry which, too often, lead to senseless acts of violence.

LINKS AND RESOURCES IN RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE FROM DENOMINATIONS

The resources gathered here reflect a wide range of perspectives from a variety of denominations. We offer these for you and your congregation to embrace preparedness and be as well informed as possible.

The **Episcopal Church** offers these resources to respond to gun violence, including liturgical resources and policy advocacy. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/resources-to-respond-to-gun-violence/>

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** offers a 60-day journey towards justice in a culture of gun violence. https://www.elca.org/60days?_ga=2.10275765.1486732084.1660513305-1100005659.1660513305

The **Presbyterian Church (USA)** offers many gun violence resources, including a program called “Standing Our Holy Ground / 10 Things You Can Do to End Gun Violence” which is found here <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2019-gun-violence-resources-packet/>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops of the **Roman Catholic Church** offers a letter to members of Congress. <https://www.usccb.org/news/2022/bishop-chairmen-call-congressional-action-address-gun-violence-o>

The **Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations** offers a *Safe Congregations Handbook* for providing a safe and welcoming space for all who gather in their congregations. The Handbook covers all types of insecurity or hazard including active shooter emergencies. <https://www.uua.org/safe/handbook>

The **United Church of Christ** has gun violence prevention suggestions and a Bible study about faith and fear. <https://www.ucc.org/understanding-the-issues/gun-violence-prevention/>

The **United Methodist Church** offers suggestions for political advocacy prevent or reduce gun violence. <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-united-methodist-position-on-preventing-gun-violence>

A resource you may not know about is the **Interfaith Public Health Network**. You can find their steps for prevention of gun violence here: <https://www.iphnetwork.org/fupgv>

TRAINING FROM LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Our **local police departments** offer training in active shooter and hostile environments. The training is sometimes referred to as **ALICE** (ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER, EVACUATE) training or **ALERT** (ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT RAPID RESPONSE TRAINING). Both trainings are similar 3-4 hour sessions. If you would like more information or guidance for faith communities, please contact your town's police department or the Cape Cod Regional Law Enforcement Council.

We also commend to you the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health** website, which has information on mental health, trauma and safe communities. <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departement-of-public-health>

Let us pray and work for the peace and safety of all individuals and communities.