

A POSITION PAPER AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

Approved by Presbytery of the James
October 21, 2017

We live in a world in which gun violence has become a fact of life. Our nation's constitution guarantees the right to bear arms, and we recognize that guns have a role in society for public safety, self-protection, and sport. While most people who have guns use them responsibly, there are far too many preventable gun tragedies: mass shootings, gang hostility, assault, suicide, domestic abuse, and accidents, including those that result in the death of children. Our creator God gives life. God in Christ brought a message of love and peace. Gun violence is inconsistent with these affirmations.

The Presbytery of the James denounces such violence and urges congregations to engage in prayer and conversation regarding our nation's present gun culture.

Some resources for further study:

1) Gun Violence Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call.

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/gun-violence-policy.pdf

This report was approved by the General Assembly of the PCUSA in 2010.

2) Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit (updated 2017)

<https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence/>

Or contact the moderator of the Public Policy Witness Ministry of Presbytery of the James:
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