

RESOLUTION 004: GUN VIOLENCE

Whereas:

We are a diverse diocese including faithful congregants in both urban and rural settings including many law-abiding and responsible gun owners and recognizing fully that those responsible gun owners are exercising their constitutional rights and are not responsible for recent criminal acts;

And whereas:

We have all – both gun owners and non-gun owners – become increasingly distressed at the wave of violence involving firearms which has cast a pall over many communities and struck down some of the most vulnerable and innocent among us;

Be it resolved:

That the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania calls upon our elected officials at both the state and federal level to take immediate action to resolve this crisis by:

- Requiring background checks for all gun purchases and the elimination of any loopholes which allow disturbed individuals and criminals to more easily obtain firearms.
- Provide additional funding to help protect our schools to help keep them safe places of learning.
- Work to strengthen the mental health system and provide greater access for individuals with serious mental health issues.
- Join us in working to better educate the people of our region about mental health issues and work to erase the stigma of seeking care for mental illness.
- Seek to eliminate assault weapons and high capacity magazines which are better suited to warfare than to lawful pursuits like hunting.
- Join us in prayerfully asking God's help in creating a more peaceful and tolerant society where we can live in our homes and walk without fear on our streets.

And since the sisters and brothers who make up the Body of Christ (the Church) are called upon to engage in the spiritual formation of its members;

Be it further resolved that this Convention commission the Peace and Justice Committee to investigate Episcopal Peace Fellowship's Non-Violence training, and engage these and other resources to design non-violence training courses appropriate for all age groups for use in parishes and in Diocesan formation programs to be presented to Diocesan Convention in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Robin Jarrell
The Rev. Cliff Johnston