

1 **A Resolution To Reduce Gun Violence** from the Norwich Congregational Church,  
2 UCC, as approved at its annual meeting, February 10, 2013

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4 Whereas Jesus commanded us to love and respect one another:

5 (John 15:12, "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."

6 Mark 12:31, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 6:27-31, "Love your

7 enemies....Do to others as you would have them do to you.") and

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9 Whereas Jesus taught us to show this love and peace by taking care of the least among  
10 us: (Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are

11 members of my family, you did it to me.") and

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13 Whereas Jesus valued the practice of peacemaking: (Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the  
14 peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.") and

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16 Whereas the teachings of Jesus speak against the use of violence: (Matthew 26:52 "All  
17 who take the sword will perish by the sword.") and

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19 Whereas Jesus told us to follow the commandments and to not commit murder: (Mark  
20 10:18, "You shall not commit murder." ) and

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22 Whereas Jesus preached that we cannot participate in or acquiesce to sin without being  
23 complicit in it, removing temptation if necessary: (Matt 5:30 “And if your right hand  
24 causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away.”) and

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26 Whereas Jesus taught us to see and understand our own reality when we consider  
27 judging others. (Luke 6:41 “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye when you  
28 yourself do not see the log in your own eye?”) and

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30 Whereas Scripture and experience teach us that all humans are sinful, capable of acting  
31 with hostile aggression toward their neighbors and

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33 Whereas Scripture teaches us that life is precious, and human beings have a moral  
34 responsibility to advocate for peace and justice for all, and

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36 Whereas an average of 30,000 Americans die each year as a result of gun violence in  
37 accidents, suicides, and murders. In 2010 in the United States 31,076 people died and  
38 73,505 people were treated for gunshot wounds. This was over 286 people killed or  
39 wounded for each day of the year. This is almost 12 people during a one hour worship  
40 service. (\*see end note) and

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42 Whereas Jesus calls on us to stop sitting silently by while this violent plague destroys  
43 countless lives and families, and wounds many communities therefore

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45 Be it resolved that the Vermont Conference, United Church of Christ calls upon  
46 individuals, congregations, and the Conference Office (\*\* see end note) to:

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48 +prayerfully consider actions which lessen the prevalence of gun violence in our  
49 communities and

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51 +contact State and Federal legislators, Governors, and the President and ask those  
52 officials to support legislation which would:

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- 54 -Ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.
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  - 56 -Require a criminal background check for every gun sold in America.
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  - 58 -Make gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for “straw purchasers”  
59 (those who arm criminals).
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61 Be it further resolved that the Vermont Conference submit this resolution to the National  
62 Synod of the United Church of Christ asking for a similar effort on a national level.

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64 End Notes

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66 \*Nat'l Center for Injury Prevention & Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and  
67 Prevention, Web-Based Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury

68 Mortality Reports, 1999-2010, for National, Regional, and States (Dec. 2012),

69 [http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/dataRestriction\\_inj.html](http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/dataRestriction_inj.html)

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71 \*\*Members of the Norwich Congregational Church, UCC will assist in this effort.

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