

Resolution to Reduce Gun Violence

1 A Resolution To Reduce Gun Violence from the Norwich Congregational Church,

2 UCC, as approved at its annual meeting, February 10, 2013

3 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

8 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

12 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

15 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

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

21 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

25 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

29 30 Whereas Scripture and experience teach us that all humans are sinful, capable of acting

31 with hostile aggression toward their neighbors and

32 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

35 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

41 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:

47 48 +prayerfully consider actions which lessen the prevalence of gun violence in our

49 communities and

50 51 +contact State and Federal legislators, Governors, and the President and ask those

52 officials to support legislation which would:

53 54 -Ban assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

55 56 -Require a criminal background check for every gun sold in America.

57 58 -Make gun trafficking a federal crime, with real penalties for "straw purchasers"
59 (those who arm criminals).

60 61 Be it further resolved that the Vermont Conference submit this resolution to the Nationa

l 62 Synod of the United Church of Christ asking for a similar effort on a national level.

63 64 End Notes

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