

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA CONVENTION

OCTOBER 18, 2025 _____

Designated contact person for this resolution:

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TITLE: Working to end gun violence in the Diocese of Pennsylvania

RESOLVED: that the parishes of the Diocese of Pennsylvania support or host events designed to increase awareness of the effect of Gun Violence on our communities.

RESOLVED: that the parishes of the Diocese of Pennsylvania support common-sense gun laws that will decrease violence in our communities, by contacting people in our government at all levels.

RESOLVED: that the parishes of the Diocese of Pennsylvania make it a regular practice to pray that gun violence end throughout our country.

RESOLVED: that the parishes of the Diocese of Pennsylvania who participate or host an ending gun violence event, report that event back to the Commission for Gun Violence. This information will be reported in the Commission's next Diocesan Convention report.

EXPLANATION:

We read in First Corinthians that "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26 [NRSV](#)) It is our belief that if one person in our community suffers, we suffer too. Gun Violence is a scourge on our communities. Organizations like Heeding God's call to End Gun Violence and CeaseFirePA report that the missing ingredient to common-sense gun laws is people of Faith. It is time for the Episcopal Church, in Jesus' name, to respond to the crisis that is right at our doors and in the five counties in which we serve.

The Gun Violence Commission of the Diocese of Pennsylvania encourages all parishes to participate in Ending Gun Violence Events in our Diocese. As we do this we can partner with other communities of faith and discuss how we can work together to end the suffering that is being perpetrated throughout our communities. The Gun Violence Commission requests that communities contact local, county, state, and federal representatives and ask them to support common-sense gun laws. Each parish can pray for the end of gun violence in our communities.

According to PA state Attorney General on February 5, 2025 Charges were brought against a Bucks County firearms dealer who illegally transferred two guns to a convicted felon.

<https://www.attorneygeneral.gov/taking-action/bucks-county-firearms-dealer-charged-with-supplying-guns-to-convicted-felon/>

Lord have Mercy.

According to CBS News, in Bucks County on June 19, 2025, Police from Middletown Township responded to a shooting at the Oxford Valley Mall. There was one person injured.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/oxford-valley-mall-shooting-pennsylvaniaupdate-suspect/>

Lord have Mercy.

According to Fox 29, in Chester County, Coatesville, in late July 2024. A car pulls up and sprays the homes and vehicles with bullets, hitting them. No one was injured or killed. The neighbors were terrorized. One of the guns used was a Ghost Gun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9yO5DJaMvk&t=2s>

Lord have Mercy.

According the CBS News, in Delaware County in Chester, on Friday, May 23, a 16-year-old boy was shot and killed. There were four other victims. Two guns were found at the scene. Two apartments were struck but no one injured. A nearby Senior living facility was also struck, with bullets going through windows.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/ring-camera-chester-pennsylvaniashooting/>

Lord have Mercy.

According to the Abington Police News Release, in Montgomery County, in Abington, on March 6, 2025, there was a violent domestic dispute. An adult female victim, her child, and the officers were not injured. A suspect died at Abington Hospital.

<https://www.abingtonpd.org/press-release-police-involved-shooting/>

Lord have Mercy.

According to The Trace, in Philadelphia County in South Philadelphia, on July 4, 2025, there was a shooting in the Grays Ferry community. Thirteen people were shot, and three were killed.

<https://www.thetrace.org/2025/07/philadelphia-mass-shooting-july-violence/>

Lord have Mercy.

Resources <https://www.heedinggodscall.org/> --- Heading God's Call to End Gun Violence

<https://www.ceasefirepa.org/> --- CeasefirePA1

<https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/resources/liturgical-resources/> Liturgical resources from

Bishops united against gun violence.

INDIVIDUAL OR DIOCESAN BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS RESOLUTION:

The Parishes and people of the Diocese The

Gun Violence Commission.

- Rev. Diane Faison – Co-Chair - coachfaison@hotmail.com
- Alice Brown – Co-Chair - briscoebrown12@gmail.com
- William Scarborough - wmgscarborough@yahoo.com
- Rev. Steve Lindsay – SWLSimple@msn.com

* *Note: As a result of Resolution R5-2017, all resolutions must now include an identified individual or Diocesan body that will be responsible for administering the resolution. R52017 Standing Order for the Stated Meeting of the Convention IV.4.(d) (duties of the Resolutions Committee) is amended as follows: 3. to insure that each resolution submitted to Convention

includes an identified individual or Diocesan body that will be responsible for administering the resolution;