

**RESOLVE Resolution 1 Pertaining to School Shootings:
Districts to develop plans of action**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
5. Our children and school workers are precious in the eyes of God and cherished in our hearts as gifts from God, and
6. We vowed in our baptism that we accept the freedom and power God gives us "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" (UMH, 34), and
7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. Each district of the Tennessee Conference shall establish a plan of action for helping to enhance safety at schools that accord with other relevant resolutions that may be approved by this annual conference, and
2. Each district's plan of action shall be included in writing in materials distributed to delegates of the 2019 Annual Conference.

Submitted by RESOLVE:

T. J. Carney, President, Conference Council on Youth Ministry
Brad Fiscus, Director, Next Gen Discipleship
Rev. Dr. Kennard Murray, Superintendent, Red River District
Rev. Phil Ross, RESOLVE co-chair, retired Elder serving Marion UMC
Rev. Donald Sensing, RESOLVE co-chair, Pastor, Greenbrier-Gideon Charge

**RESOLVE Resolution 2 Pertaining to School Shootings:
Call for volunteers**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
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7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. United Methodist adults of the Tennessee Conference, in coordination with their local school officials and/or law-enforcement agencies, are urged to assist schools' staff and on-scene law-enforcement officers on campuses as unarmed volunteers for matters related to safety and security of students, faculty and staff, especially at the beginning and closing of the school day; and
2. Adult United Methodists of the Tennessee Conference serve, as may be possible, as Tennessee School Safety Specialists in accordance with the standards set forth by the state's Department of Education.
3. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the Tennessee Commissioner of Education.

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**RESOLVE Resolution 3 Pertaining to School Shootings:
Call for Increased Law-Enforcement Presence**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
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6. We vowed in our baptism that we accept the freedom and power God gives us "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" (UMH, 34), and
7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish; and
10. We recognize that armed force by law-enforcement officers to stop a school shooter, while regrettable, may sometimes be necessary, and
11. Presently, a minority of Tennessee schools have a School Resource Officer assigned; and
12. Typically, only one SRO is on duty in schools in schools that have them; and
13. A high number of our schools are too large for a single SRO officer to secure effectively; and
14. We note that the School Safety Act of 2018 is still pending in the Tennessee legislature at the time of submission of this resolution to the Conference:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. We support enactment by the Tennessee legislature to enable local school districts to hire off-duty, though still actively serving, law-enforcement officers as additional armed security officers on school campuses.
2. Members of the Tennessee Conference urge their own legislators to enact such legislation; and
3. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the governor of the state, the leader of each political party of the state senate and house, to the commissioner of the Department of Education, and to the commissioner of the state Department of Safety & Homeland Security.

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**RESOLVE Resolution 4 Pertaining to School Shootings:
On the arming of school teachers**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
5. Our children and school workers are precious in the eyes of God and cherished in our hearts as gifts from God, and
6. We vowed in our baptism that we accept the freedom and power God gives us "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" (UMH, 34), and
7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish; and
10. Having observed that all school shootings result in mass movements of students attempting to hide or escape, and
11. Teachers have been single-focused on removing their students from the area of danger, whether by flight or barricade, and
12. We have already filled teachers' requirements with work that usually takes enormous amounts of time other than school hours, and
13. Proficiency with a firearm in lethal environments, especially in crowds and high uncertainty and high mobility, is extremely difficult and requires very high levels of ongoing live-fire practice; and
14. We do not believe it is realistic to think that over time that school staff or teachers will maintain proficiency:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. We do not support legislation by the Tennessee legislature that either requires or authorizes the arming of teachers or staffs of school with firearms; and
2. Should such legislation become law, we urge local school districts not to authorize staff or faculty to be armed on school grounds.
3. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the governor of the state, the leader of each political party of the state senate and house, to the commissioner of the Department of Education, and to the commissioner of the state Department of Safety & Homeland Security.

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**RESOLVE Resolution 5 Pertaining to School Shootings:
Gun Violence Restraining Orders**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
5. Our children and school workers are precious in the eyes of God and cherished in our hearts as gifts from God, and
6. We vowed in our baptism that we accept the freedom and power God gives us "to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves" (UMH, 34), and
7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. We call upon the Tennessee legislature to enact, and the governor to sign into law, measures commonly referred to as Gun Violence Restraining Orders that permit, by court order, temporary seizure of firearms from persons referred to law enforcement by immediate family members; and
2. Referrals must specify how the subject person is a potential threat to his/her own or others' safety; and
3. Any statute enacting Gun Violence Restraining Orders must include protection of due process, including the right of the person concerned to appeal in less than 30 days of the order being issued, in person to the judge who ordered the seizure.
4. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the governor of the state, the leader of each political party of the state senate and house, to the commissioner of the Department of Education, and to the commissioner of the state Department of Safety & Homeland Security.

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**RESOLVE Resolution 6_Pertaining to School Shootings:
Enhancements of School Buildings**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
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7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. Members of the Tennessee Conference who are qualified to assess the physical safety and construction safety of school buildings and grounds, offer to do so with a focus on inhibiting the effectiveness of gunfire directed against persons on the campus, and
2. Members of the Tennessee Conference, in coordination with local school and civil officials, actively engage in helping resource and provision local-initiative improvements to that end, such as (examples):
 - a. Installation of high-impact-resistant windows to inhibit or prevent penetration by gunfire,
 - b. "Hardening" walls of classrooms to inhibit or prevent penetration by gunfire,
 - c. Systems to monitor in real time who is entering school buildings and where,
 - d. Locking or blocking mechanisms on classroom doors that are resistant to disabling by gunfire, and
3. We urge future construction of schools to incorporate architectural features designed to minimize the ability of a shooter to gain access to attack school grounds or succeed if he does, including protective features against gunfire.
4. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the governor of the state, the commissioner of the Department of Education, and to the commissioner of the state Department of Safety & Homeland Security.

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**RESOLVE Resolution 7 Pertaining to School Shootings:
Legal Age to Own Semi-Automatic Rifles**

Whereas:

1. The students, faculties and staffs of the nation's schools are still killed, injured, or traumatized by persons shooting them on campuses with firearms, and
2. The trauma to the victims, their families and their communities endures for many years, and
3. People of good will on different sides of the theological and political spectrum are united that these shootings must end, and
4. Open dialogue among people of faith must continue but we are convicted that we must also act, and
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7. It is our responsibility as Christian people and as citizens of the country to guide and protect children and their teachers and school workers while on the job; and
8. We recognize that there are many contributing factors which may contribute to such atrocities and that there is no single measure that is "the" answer; and
9. We, as thoughtful guardians of their well-being, should be actively engaged in providing safe and peaceful environments in which our students and school workers may thrive and flourish; and
10. Semi-automatic firearms have been used in every school mass shooting in recent decades; and
11. Persons age 18 and older may legally buy semi-automatic rifles from a licensed dealer or take possession of them from a private seller or transferor; and
12. Persons age 18-20 may not legally receive handguns from licensed dealers but may legally take possession of handguns from a private seller or transferor:

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2018 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1. The Tennessee legislature enact, and the governor sign into law, that ownership of semi-automatic rifles or semi-automatic pistols may not lawfully be transferred to any person of the state who has not attained his or her twenty-first birthday; and
2. US Representatives and Senators of the state introduce legislation in Congress to the same effect nationally; and
3. The secretary of the Annual Conference shall submit a copy of this resolution to the governor of the state, the leader of each political party of the state senate and house, and to each US Representative of precincts within the Tennessee Annual Conference, and to each US Senator of the state.

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