

## From Your Interim General Presbyter

We are all so very saddened and distressed by yet another mass shooting in our country, the largest in our nation's history. This time it was a gay night club in Orlando. Previously, it was a county health department,... a military base,... a theater,... a college campus,... a church, an elementary school, ... I don't know about you, but I'm sick and tired. I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired! How long, O Lord, HOW LONG?!? As I type that, I hear God's gentle Spirit say to me in anguish, "How long, my people, how long?"

As Jim Trumm has written, "After 9/11, we banned knives and box cutters on airplanes. We then banned liquids of more than 3 ounces. We understood the connection between these things and the loss of life that followed. So why can't we understand the connection between assault weapons and mass shootings?"

I'm grateful and proud that HRP, at the Stony Point congregation and other's initiative, has taken a stand for common sense gun control. Our own Synod of the Northeast has a gun network that seeks "at the grassroots level to engage theologically, spiritually and pastorally in the gun violence epidemic" and encourages action with our elected leaders.

(<http://www.synodne.org/gun-violence/>)

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a [long history of advocating for common sense gun control](#). On our PCUSA.org website, there are [many other resources](#). It's evident, from examining other democracies, that new gun control is a needed response to this violence. Those who have a history of domestic violence, those who are mentally ill, those wanting to do the bidding of a terrorist organization, and those who are just bent on violence toward another person or group must be prevented from obtaining a gun... and no one in our society needs a weapon made for war.

[Pray](#) ... Yes! We must pray for those who survived and recovering in body, mind, and spirit; for the families that lost loved ones; for elected leaders to get half a brain or a spine to resist the powerful gun lobby and do what is right and best with regard to enacting new and effective common sense gun laws; for a nation of people who have yet to rise up in mass to say, "Enough!" But we must rise up from prayer to do God's bidding. Mourn... of course! We mourn for the loss of life, for the families that grieve, for the LBGTQ community that one again must endure being targeted by hate, violence and ignorance! But we must take a stand if we are to be in solidarity with those who mourn. Be outraged... of course! This is so senseless and some of it can be prevented by action. But we must put our energy into acts that brings the realm of God closer to our everyday life and our life together. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be!

God bless. Gavin  
June 16, 2016