

GUN VIOLENCE RESPONSE TASK FORCE

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3 During the 2022 Annual Conference, Children Matter Most called for us to work to address gun
4 violence. Rev. Angelo Mante shared that "gun violence is an epidemic, and it's getting increasingly
5 worse. As United Methodists, we must pray, *and* we must act." Work has been done to establish a
6 Gun Violence Response Task Force. A list of team members and gun violence prevention and
7 response materials will be available at both the Children Matter Most and Diversity, Missions, and
8 Justice booths.

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10 We are grateful that you have already been engaging in this important work in your own setting.
11 We are aware of the following: two churches completed the "Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities"
12 study, there has been one learning cohort, and churches and individuals have engaged in prayer
13 vigils and advocacy work. Rev. Angelo Mante, executive director of Alive Community Outreach in
14 Fort Wayne along with their new staffperson, Chris Lahr, the Community Education Coordinator,
15 has also been leading prevention initiatives with young people in local schools through
16 peacemaking school partnerships, Peacemaker Academy, and Peace Grannies and Grampies.

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18 We invite you to continue to work to prevent and respond to gun violence. Join the task force
19 and/or a learning cohort, use one of the resources in your local church, community, and/or district,
20 contact your local, state, and federal government representatives, start a victim support group, and
21 join us around Indiana on September 25th, 2023, on the National Day of Remembrance for Murder
22 Victims.

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24 *Rev Jen Huff, Interim Chair*