

Dear North Georgia United Methodists,

At the meeting of the North Georgia Annual Conference last June, the members of the Conference overwhelmingly adopted a Resolution Regarding Gun Violence Prevention. That Resolution called upon the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Georgia, and the State and Federal legislators representing the parts of Georgia included in the North Georgia Annual Conference to enact meaningful measures to reduce gun violence in Georgia. That was an important first step, but it cannot be the last step. Gun violence continues to be an epidemic in our state and in the nation. In the 7 months after the Resolution was adopted, 71 children and teens in Georgia died from gun violence, and so far in 2024, more than 30 people have been killed in Georgia by gun violence.

As was stated in the Resolution, “as people of faith, this continued gun violence, and the death, injury, and trauma that result from it, should be of particular concern to us” and “silence in the face of continuing gun violence at the very least violates God’s commandment that we love our neighbor as ourselves.” We therefore ask that you join us as we advocate for our elected officials to pass legislation to ensure the safe ownership, storage, and usage of guns.

The first step we ask you to take is to contact the elected officials that represent you. Attached to this letter is information about how to find out who your representatives are, along with suggestions about how to communicate your concerns about gun violence with them. We encourage you to contact these people now, and to continue to reach out to them throughout the legislative session. A list of current gun violence prevention bills under consideration, which will be updated throughout the legislative session, can be found [here](#).

Second, we invite you to come as we join us as we participate in a Day of Action at the Capitol on February 28 at 9:30am. We will gather at Central Presbyterian Church (201 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303), and then walk over to the Capitol together. Parking will be very limited so you are encouraged to take MARTA. In order for the legislators to understand how great a number of people of faith are asking for gun safety legislation, we encourage you to wear a t-shirt representing your church.

We believe that advocacy for gun safety is work that people of faith are uniquely called to do, and we hope that you will join us in this vital effort. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Jimmy Moor at jimmy.moor@ngumc.net.

*Authors of the 2023 Resolution Regarding Gun Violence Prevention*