

1 **GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS TASK FORCE—**
2 **PROHIBITING GUNS ON CHURCH PROPERTY**
3 *Submitted by Conference Board of Church and Society*

4 **Whereas** Jesus calling upon his followers to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) is tied to intimate
5 relationship with God, and echoes God’s dreams for peace for all of creation as expressed in Micah
6 4:1–4, The United Methodist Church *Book of Resolutions* calls upon church members to prayerfully
7 address gun violence in their local context. Furthermore, it makes eight specific recommendations
8 congregations may implement to prevent gun violence, including displaying signs to prohibit
9 carrying guns onto church property;

10 **Whereas** the Desert Southwest Conference calls us to “Be a Courageous Church, Loving like Jesus,
11 Acting for Justice and United in Hope.” In order to live out these principles;

12 **Whereas** churches have a responsibility to for the safety and wellbeing of every person who enters a
13 church for education and or worship or for any other reason;

14 **Whereas** the Gun Violence Awareness Task Force has developed the Gun Violence Conversations-
15 Civility in the Age of Chaos program and other resources to assist congregations in developing
16 policies; and

17 **Whereas** it is affirmed that sworn, active duty law enforcement officers shall be allowed to carry firearms
18 anywhere on church property; therefore, be it

19 **Resolved** that churches in the Desert Southwest Conference are gun free campuses. They may also choose
20 to post signs prohibiting the carrying of guns either openly or concealed onto church property.

21 *The Conference Secretary has the ability to make editorial changes that do not change the intent of the*
22 *petition.*