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## Churches Uniting in Christ

### **STOP GUN VIOLENCE** **June 7, 2022**

Churches Uniting in Christ believes God's intent *has, is, and forever shall be* a harmonious relationship between God and all creation, especially among our sisters and our brothers, all of whom are created in God's image and are to reflect that image unconditionally at all times and in all places.

The killing of 19 young students and two teachers at an elementary school, inside a fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde, Texas, May 24, violated the sanctity of human life and, we believe, grieved the Holy Spirit. It profoundly grieves us as well. Churches Uniting in Christ prays for the loss of these 22 lives, for their families and their friends, that God will continue to watch closely over them during this tragic loss. We also pray that we, the Body of Christ, will have the courage and the will to say, "Enough is more than enough; we must act too," not with violence, but by not envying "the violent" or choosing "any of their ways" (Proverbs 3:31).

In condemning such horrific violence, Churches Uniting in Christ also asks that we:

- Continue to pray without ceasing;
- Comfort those victims whom we can reach, especially denominations/communions who have churches within the Uvalde area;
- Pray for lawmakers to pass gun regulation laws to reduce gun violence;
- Be more attuned to warning signs within our churches, community, and workplaces, and say something to the appropriate person(s) when warning signs are noticeable;
- Continue to connect with agents to whom individuals with emotional or psychological problems can be referred;
- Sponsor individual and joint communal activities that promote holistic healing and health;
- Continue to have churches and centers within your area work to ensure that individuals have access to the kind of psychological care they need;
- Be watchful, but also be open-minded;
- Trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in the continuous, intentional work we do in this area.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18)