



## **Healing the Soul of America from Gun Violence**

### **Lifeline to Healing Clergy Statement**

We share in the outrage growing from every corner of our nation that we have abandoned our young people to the clutches of violence fueled by greed, fear and our despair. We bear witness to the deep pain of our nation's people, whose loved ones are dying needlessly in our communities across the land, that our God commands we speak out about the sanctity of all life and affirm that all have the right to live in peace and safety. We further assert that people of faith everywhere are commanded by our God to work tirelessly and in coalition with one another across racial lines, class and place lines, age and gender lines to vigorously confront the proliferation and increasing lethality of guns in our neighborhoods and cities, towns and streets, malls and schools.

We affirm that every life is precious in the eyes of our Creator and our God has no pleasure in the death of anyone. We are committed to uniting around the common pain and loss of who have suffered in Newtown and New Orleans, Chicago and Columbine and Oak Creek and Oakland. We are committed through our work to heal the soul of a nation. We will be vigilant partners in the struggle to transform our communities from the valley of the shadow of death to the land of the living.

To this end, we seek:

1. Universal Background Checks for all gun sales
2. Ban on Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines
3. Investments in Mental Health and Public Health Support
4. Targeted Investments and Approaches from Federal Government in Urban Cities most impacted by gun violence

In Solidarity,

Clergy of the Lifelines to Healing Campaign



Bishop Noel Jones  
City of Refuge Church  
Los Angeles, CA

Bishop J.R. Macklin  
Glad Tidings Church  
Hayward, CA

Dr. Iva Carruthers  
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Chattanooga, TN

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Higher Ground Temple  
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Rabbi David Baum  
Shaarei Kodesh  
Boca Raton, FL

Bishop Bradford Berry  
Rehoboth Temple Church of Christ  
Columbus, OH

Pastor Thomas Bessix  
New Gideon Baptist Church  
Baton Rouge, LA

Bishop Edgar Vann  
Second Ebenezer Church  
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Community Covenant Church  
Calumet Park, IL

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Temple Baptist Church  
Richmond, CA

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Ten Point Coalition  
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Bethel A.M.E Church  
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Church on the Living Edge  
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South Hills Church  
Corona, CA

Pastor Linwood Dillard  
Memphis, TN

Reverend Charles Harrison  
Barnes United Methodist Church  
Indianapolis, IN

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Beth Jacob  
Mendota Heights, MN

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COGIC Urban Initiatives  
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Refuge Temple Church  
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Bishop Carroll Johnson  
Maximum Life Christian Church  
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Sister Ann Keefe  
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For His Glory Church  
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St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church  
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Toledo, OH

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Solid Rock Church  
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Church of the Living God

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Mother Bethel AME Church  
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Dr. Timothy Tyler  
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Reverend Allen Williams  
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Reverend Maurice Wright  
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