

STANDING OUR HOLY GROUND

A YEAR-LONG LOOK AT **GUN VIOLENCE** & WHAT THE FAITH COMMUNITY CAN DO ABOUT IT

Study Guide

How to Talk About Gun Violence in Your Church

Timestamps

Opening Remarks

[1:13](#) - Common Understandings

Panelist Presentations

[5:09](#) – Virginia Classick, co-chair, Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, [Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles](#)

[14:03](#) – Katie Day, Professor, [United Lutheran Seminary](#)

[28:33](#) - Sarah Logemann, pastor and author of [G-NS: A Resource for Generous Dialogue about Gun Violence](#)

Q&A

[41:22](#) – How are our congregations considering children and young people when talking about gun violence?

[44:33](#) – What are Katie Day’s thoughts on the need to update the 2010 PCUSA gun violence policy to be more relevant for the current context?

[46:50](#) – What are the panelists’ thoughts about churches locking their doors as a security measure? How do churches balance the values of security and hospitality?

[50:08](#) – Does a church’s position to not allow guns on its premises make itself a target?

[52:05](#) - What has the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship seen in its experience about encouraging conversations on gun violence prevention, particularly about posting signs bearing the words “No Guns in God’s House”?

Helpful References

[Episcopal Diocese Gun Prevention Violence Toolkit](#)

[G-NS: A Resource for Generous Dialogue about Gun Violence](#)

[Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#)

[Standing Our Holy Ground Webinar Series](#)

[Gun Violence Prevention overture for 224th General Assembly \(2020\)](#)

[Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence Prevention – Congregational Toolkit](#)

[Child Access Prevention Laws by State](#)

[Domestic Violence Prevention Posters](#)



General Questions

1. How did this webinar engage your **mind**? What thoughts came to mind as you heard from the panelists?
2. How did this webinar engage your **heart**? What emotions and feelings did you experience while hearing from the panelists?
3. How did this webinar speak to your **soul**? What spiritual wonderings emerged while listening to the panelists?

Guided Questions

1. The panelists stress that gun violence prevention is *not* anti-gun. However, many people do not believe that statement. Do you believe it to be true? Why or why not? What do you think of Virginia Classick's example that "Mothers Against Drunk Driving are not anti-car"?
2. Has your congregation been able to have a conversation about church safety and security regarding gun violence? Has your church done any "preparation for the conversation" as outlined by the panelists? Why or why not? If yes, what preparation has been done?
3. If your church has decided on a security measure or a response to the perceived threat of gun violence, where does it fall on the spectrum outlined by Katie Day? What were the theological underpinnings of that decision? Was there conversation about balancing hospitality with security? Was there discussion about the source of people's fears?
4. Where do you fall in the gun rights spectrum that Sarah Logemann outlined? Why? What are the factors that have contributed to you identifying with that particular viewpoint? Is there a difference between your "ideal world" scenario and your realistic preference for gun rights? If so, why?
5. The panelists emphasize a need for dialogue and conversation before any action or advocacy can take place. Sarah Logemann emphasizes bringing humanity into the conversation by having people share positive and negative stories related to guns to establish that each of us have different feelings and reactions to the word "gun" because of our varied experiences and ideas. Have you felt comfortable to share your views and experiences in your faith community? Why or why not?
6. Sarah Logemann mentioned that young people think about gun violence more often because they train for active shooter situations in schools and watch mass shootings play out on social media which extends the grasp of trauma. Katie Day stated that in adults' desire to instill a sense of security in young people, they either aren't honest or do not talk about the realities or fear of gun violence. Does your congregation engage children and young people on this topic? Why or why not?

