

## *A message from the National President*



### **Church Women United, Inc**

*Agreed to Differ, Resolved to Love, United to Service*

August 11, 2022

Greetings,

In times like these we sometime struggle with our faith. Let us be quick to call upon the Almighty God in prayer to comfort, guide and protect our heart from the uncertainty, fear and darkness that sometimes disrupts our lives. The scripture reminds us “that we should **not** fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand” Isaiah 41:10.

Each day that we rise like the sun let us pray for the families that mourn, those who are desperately trying to cope with the horrors they have witnessed, and all of us who work diligently to restore wholeness to lives that are forever shattered by gun violence. And we pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire us to act in boldness to help rebuild our broken communities across the nation.

Beyond the call of prayer, many of you are asking how we can stop the endless parade of massacres. We are growing numb to a public crisis of violence even as the numbers of the victims continue to increase by the day, minute, and hour, it is too astronomical to comprehend. We continuously argue over the cause; we cry, express anger and protest and still do not find a resolution, then we do nothing. And by doing nothing, we become complicit when violence erupts yet again in our communities.

It is time we put our words into action and turn our tears into triumph. The Lord told us that there would be trouble in the world. “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Corinthians 15:57.

Let us move beyond our pain and numbness and turn our frustration to a righteous cause. Now is the time to have difficult and honest conversation – even spirited debates that are grounded in love, kindness, and peace. We can model civility, honor, and respect even in the emotionally charged conversations related to gun laws. God called us to seek and share His love and welcome others as he does for each of us. We are all God’s beloved children, and must learn to live in peace, harmony, and respect each other again. Yes! I stated **again**. America has truly gone mad. We do not respect

humanity like God calls us to do so. We are all God's beloved children, and we must learn to live together, honoring and respecting one another as human beings.

We must take back our children, neighborhoods, street corners and fight for CHANGE. This is the time to hold our political leaders accountable – indeed, for all of us – to stand together, united, to denounce the heinous acts of violence destroying the world. It is also time for us to take a position against the perpetrators who do not value their life or others. How do begin to advocate for stricter gun laws? How do we address the mental health crisis? We are morally responsibility to protect the broken, oppressed, and downtrodden.

As a faith-based organization we focus on welcoming everyone to sit at the table, conversations about the rights, responsibilities, and the consequences of guns on our streets. Most recently gun violence shook several communities the Tops Supermarket, Buffalo, New York and Robb Elementary School, Uvalde, Texas, and Independence Day Parade, Highland Park, Illinois to name a few. We know these are difficult conversations to have but we cannot be afraid to have them. If these conversations are to make any difference at all, they must lead to action. We have already waited too long to begin this work. The lives of innocent children, women and men have already been lost, and countless more lives are at stake.

As Christians we are called to embody love, compassion, and mercy amid these unprecedented times of gun violence. Let us saturate ourselves in prayer and a spirit of hospitality to spiritually cover and physically protect the wounded, brokenhearted and depressed.

Let us denounce all forms of violence, racism, and hate crimes to seek a model of love, peace, and respect that protects all creation. May we open our heart and mind to the movement of the Holy Spirit among us, showing us the path to end gun violence and address the root causes of all violence, bringing spiritual wholeness and peace to which we are called in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9.

**Here is how you can help.**

Please call or start a letter campaign to your senators and representatives, and partner with local organizations in your area working on gun reform. Lastly, make sure you **VOTE**. Every vote counts. It is time to make some good trouble.

With hope,

*Mira J. Washington*

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National President