



## Heeding God's Call

*Inspiring Hope, Raising Voices, Taking Action to End Gun Violence*

### PRESS RELEASE

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### LEADING FAITH-BASED GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION GROUP CALLS LATEST COLORADO MASSACRE 'TOO PREDICTABLE'

#### ***Heeding God's Call* Exhorts Faith Community to Do More Than Just Pray and Grief, But to Take Real Action to Prevent Gun Violence**

**Philadelphia:** *Heeding God's Call*, the faith-based and grassroots movement to prevent gun violence headquartered in Philadelphia expressed deep remorse about the 'too predictable' massacre of innocents early this morning in Aurora, Colorado.

The Reverend James F. McIntire, Board Chair of *Heeding God's Call*, said: "As people of faith, all of at *Heeding God's Call* grieve at the useless loss of life that occurred this morning in Colorado. We pray for the lost, the wounded, their friends and families and a community that will never be the same. But, prayer and grief are not enough. It is time for the faith community to stop ignoring the deep malaise that besets our nation. It is time for the faith community to lead this country out of the hell of gun violence."

The Reverend James Atwood, Coordinator of *Heeding God's Call* of Greater Washington, DC said: "There is something frighteningly wrong in this country when these massacres keep happening. We, as a nation, cannot simply blame disturbed individuals and ignore the fact that our unique gun culture and the ease of availability of guns, especially those made to kill as many people as possible as quickly as possible, is also to blame for the incredible loss of life and community."

Bryan Miller, Executive Director of *Heeding God's Call* said: "Despite the claims of the gun industry and lobby, these massacres and the daily toll of gun violence in this country are absolutely about guns. It would be irresponsible and unconscionable for people of faith to just point to a disturbed individual and seek no change in American attitudes, policies and laws regarding guns. If Americans, and especially people of faith, don't seek real and meaningful change about guns it's easy to predict more such massacres. And, who knows who will die or be wounded in the next one, and the one after that and the one after that..."

The Reverend Dr. Dolores McCabe, Executive Committee Member of *Heeding God's Call* said: "We call on our sisters and brothers of all faiths to join with *Heeding God's Call* to take a new activist role in preventing gun violence. God calls us to do so to save the lives of his children. More than grief and prayer, God calls us, per the First Letter of John 3:18, 'to love with actions and in truth'"

*Heeding God's Call* is the rapidly growing faith-based and grassroots movement to prevent gun violence and has active chapters in Northwest and Northeast Philadelphia, on the Main Line, in Harrisburg, Baltimore and Washington, DC. *Heeding* seeks to bring faithful and public pressure to bear on gun shops to persuade them to avoid selling to those who would put guns on the street. *Heeding* was instrumental in bringing federal authorities to shutter notorious Colosimo's Gun Center in late '09.

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