



Heeding God's Call ***to End Gun Violence***

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE SLAUGHTER

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**PENNSYLVANIA BASED INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO PREVENTING GUN
VIOLENCE SAYS: "THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS" ARE NOT ENOUGH**

**HEEDING GOD'S CALL TO END GUN VIOLENCE SAYS: "IT IS TIME FOR THE AMERICAN
FAITH COMMUNITY TO DEVOTE ITSELF TO CHANGING LAWS TO PREVENT GUN
VIOLENCE**

Philadelphia: Reverend Woody Dalton, Chairman of the Board of *Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (Heeding)*, the faith-based and grassroots organization devoted to ending gun violence active throughout the Mid-Atlantic said: "Like all true people and communities of faith, *Heeding* is devastated by yesterday's slaughter of innocents at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. We mourn for the lost, pray for them, the wounded and all responders to the massacre and for the community of the faithful at Tree of Life. Would that American gun laws and policies were effective, like those of other countries, in preventing gun massacres and the everyday carnage suffered by our cities."

Bryan Miller, *Heeding* Executive Director said: "America's airwaves are filled today with calls for 'unity, thoughts and prayers' by cowardly politicians and apologists for the gun lobby and industry. These calls are far from enough, save no lives and provide ways for irresponsible and evil people and industries to distract and avoid needed life-saving change. Sadly, too many faith leaders and communities have fallen prey to the siren song of avoidance of responsibility and controversy in favor of ease and cowardice."

Dalton continued: "It is time for the American faith community to take courage and to step up to fully embrace the crying need for new laws to save lives from gun violence. It's time for faith leaders and traditions to recognize their religious responsibility is to the people of God and not to the makers of guns designed and used to kill as many people as quickly as possible."

*For those in the Philadelphia area who want to come together to demand change, *Heeding* will sponsor next Sunday afternoon (Nov 4) two Gun Violence Awareness Days, one each in Swarthmore, Delaware County and Phoenixville, Chester County. These events will include public education, walks with signs, prayers and songs, talks by survivors of gun murder, *Heeding's* Memorial to the Lost tee-shirt memorial and opportunities to write to legislators. Please see attached flyers for information and plan to participate. *

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

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