

1 **Document: 700.06**
2 **Name: End Gun Violence**
3 **Author(s): NICMFSA, Luis F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICRMN, Luis**
4 **F Reyes, Alka Lyall, Elisa Gatz, leadership team, NICBC&S, Elisa Gatz, chair**
5 **CCFA Action: No financial implications**
6 **Legislative Section:**

7
8 **Action:**

9 We support elected leaders who are willing to represent us by taking action on gun violence by
10 engaging in meaningful conversation and working across party affiliations regarding gun safety
11 legislation toward a goal of reducing the gun violence Illinoisans experience. Toward this end,
12 we advocate for the passage of red flag laws and we encourage our churches to engage the Gun
13 Violence Study Materials ([https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum\(1\).pdf](https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum(1).pdf)), which was
14 created to equip clergy and laity with biblical and theological foundations around the issue of
15 gun violence and to offer opportunities for Wesleyan formation and Christian responses.

16
17 United Methodists in Northern Illinois will choose one or more ways to “advocate
18 at the local and national level for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence, including:

- 19 • Universal background checks on all gun purchases
- 20 • Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty
- 21 • Ensuring all guns are sold through licensed gun retailers
- 22 • Prohibiting all individuals convicted of violent crimes from purchasing a gun for a fixed time
23 period
- 24 • Prohibiting all individuals under restraining order due to threat of violence from purchasing
25 a gun
- 26 • Prohibiting persons with serious mental illness, who pose a danger to themselves and their
27 communities, from purchasing a gun
- 28 • Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness
- 29 • Establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession
- 30 • Banning large-capacity ammunition magazines and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds
31 each time the trigger is pulled
- 32 • Promoting new technologies to aid law-enforcement agencies to trace crime guns and
33 promote public safety.”

34 (The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016, 3428.8 “Our Call to End Gun
35 Violence”)

36
37 **Rationale:**

38 June is National Gun Violence Awareness month. Gun violence continues to be an epidemic in
39 our country. Every day, more than 300 people are directly impacted by gun violence in the
40 United States. Gun Violence Awareness Month was created to draw attention to this tragic
41 reality and demand life-saving change.
42 Research shows that states with the strongest gun laws generally have less gun violence.
43 (Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: Gun Violence Statistics); and
44 “ the strength of a political system depends upon the full and willing participation of its citizens.
45 The church should continually exert a strong ethical influence upon the state, supporting
46 policies and programs deemed to be just and opposing policies and programs that are unjust.”

1 (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, Social Principles ¶164.B Political
2 Responsibility)

3 In Illinois, 39% of gun deaths are suicides and 58% are homicides. This is compared to 61% and
4 36% respectively, nationwide. The rate of gun deaths in Illinois increased 32% from
5 2009 to 2018, compared to an 18% increase over this same time period nationwide. In Illinois,
6 the rate of gun suicide increased 39% and gun homicide increased 29% from 2009 to 2018,
7 compared to a 19% increase and an 18% increase nationwide, respectively. Firearms are the 1st-
8 leading cause of death among children and teens in Illinois. In Illinois, an average of 183
9 children and teens die by guns every year, and 82% of these deaths are homicides. In the
10 United States, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.
11 Black children and teens in Illinois are 13 times as likely as their white peers to die by guns.
12 Thoughts and prayers are not sufficient to address the evil of gun violence.

13
14 **Gun Violence Study Materials** ([https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum\(1\).pdf](https://ntcumc.org/Gun_Violence_Curriculum(1).pdf))

1 **Document: 700.07**
2 **Name: Witnessing and Voting for Civility, Compassion, and Democracy in 2024 Legislation**
3 **Author: Elisa Gatz**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**
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8 **Action:**

9 The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church urges all United Methodists
10 and United States citizens to use personal courtesy (PC) in political conversations and to vote
11 for civility, compassion, and democracy.

12
13 We urge Illinois United Methodists to speak out against politicians who use dehumanizing
14 language, vulgarities, name calling, insults, and veiled threats of violence.

15
16 We urge pastors and lay leaders to use Sunday School lessons, communications, sermons,
17 letters to the editor, op eds, and advertisements to remind Americans to be civil and
18 compassionate in political conversations. Let us remind each other and the public that all the
19 world's major religions counsel us to speak respectfully with others as we would have them to
20 speak respectfully with us.

21
22 We urge pastors and lay leaders to use these two resources to advance democracy and good
23 citizenship: General Conference Resolution 3422, "Speaking Out for Compassion: Transforming
24 the Context of Hate in the U.S." and "Strengthening our democracy," a statement from 13
25 presidential centers that promotes, "civil dialogue; respect for democratic institutions and rights;
26 and safe, secure, and accessible elections." (bushcenter.org, 9-7-23)

27
28 We urge Illinois United Methodists and friends to participate in Get Out The Vote (GOTV) with
29 organizations such as the League for Women Voters, the NAACP, and political parties.

30
31 **Rationale:**

32 "Thou shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." -Exodus 20: 16

33 God will be displeased if United Methodists don't speak out at this time of rising vitriol, racism,
34 Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Anti-Palestinian rhetoric, hate, and violence. United Methodists
35 cannot countenance white supremacy. We can't allow intolerant voices to drown out different
36 opinions. We must "end complicity with hate by speaking out when jokes, disparagements, and
37 stereotypes are based on difference." (UMC Resolution 3422)

38 We deplore acts of hate or violence against groups or persons based on national origin,
39 ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. (UMC Social Principles, 162) We cannot afford to pass
40 up opportunities to speak out for civility, compassion, and democracy in 2024.

1 Document: 700.15
2 Name: Discontinuance of Naperville: Korean UMC
3 Author: District Superintendent, Jeffry Bross, Prairie Central District, UMC
4 CCFA Action:
5 Legislative Section:

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7 **ACTION:**

8 WHEREAS the Naperville: Korean UMC located in the City of Naperville,
9 Illinois at the commonly known address of 2403 W. Diehl Road in __
10 Naperville Township of DuPage County, Illinois was formed and has witnessed
11 to Jesus Christ and served its community and the world for having closed on May30,
12 2023 and

13
14 WHEREAS the _____ Naperville: Korean UMC faithfully served
15 the community in the Village of Lisle, IL and boldly risked themselves in this effort;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, pursuant to the provision of Paragraph 2549 of *The Book of Discipline of The*
19 *United Methodist Church 2016*, the Prairie Central District Superintendent has
20 recommended with the approval of the Bishop and unanimous vote of the District
21 Superintendents that the church be discontinued effective May 30, 2023. The Prairie
22 Central District Committee on Building and Location has voted to concur with the
23 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church and the
24 presiding Bishop and the majority of the District Superintendents of the Northern
25 Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church have consented to the
26 District Superintendent's recommendation to discontinue said church;

27
28 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to minimize the risk of loss of future bequests to
29 the Conference, the Northern Illinois Annual Conference recommends that the said
30 Church, though discontinued under the Canon Law of The United Methodist Church,
31 nevertheless be maintained in perpetuity under the Illinois civil law by adopting a
32 reincorporation thereof by the Bishop under Section 46b of the Illinois Religious
33 Corporation Act, with the incumbent Conference Board of Trustees names as trustees
34 of the Discontinued Church under the procedure established by Article VII
35 "Discontinued or Abandoned Church Reincorporation" of the By-laws of the Northern
36 Illinois Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the said Church shall be transferred
39 to New Church Start Korean Church in Naperville, Illinois, unless any such members
40 shall inform the pastor of the transferee church otherwise; and

41
42 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of The Northern Illinois
43 Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church are authorized and directed to

1 execute on behalf of the said Conference any and all such additional documents as legal
2 counsel shall recommend to effectuate the above.

3

4 **RATIONALE:**

5 After many faithful years of service, ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ,
6 **Naperville Korean UMC** has come to a place of transition. The actions of the pastor and
7 leadership has required immediate protection of the church property per par. 2549.3. The
8 presiding bishop, along with the majority of district superintendents and the district
9 board of church location and building all consent and declare exigent circumstances exist
10 that require the immediate closure of the church. Those church members who desire a
11 continued relationship with the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist
12 Church shall worship under a newly appointed elder until such time as a new church
13 might be chartered.

1 **Document: 703.01**
2 **Name: Housing Covenant Policy 2024**
3 **Author(s): Nancy Blade**
4 **CCFA Action:**
5 **Legislative Section:**

6
7 **Action:**

8 BE IT RESOLVED, that the following housing covenant be approved as a document to be used
9 annually by each church of the Northern Illinois Conference.

10 **Rationale:**

11 The previous Housing Covenant in the policy section of the Journal of the Northern Illinois
12 Conference was approved June 7, 1999. In the last 25 years much has changed in the way we
13 maintain households. This document was edited by the Cabinet and the Trustee Board. It will
14 replace the current policy 703-02 on page 200 of the 2023 Journal.

15

16 HOUSING COVENANT BETWEEN PASTOR _____ AND
17 _____ UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS
18 CONFERENCE

19 The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is the advocate for the parsonage family, and it is their
20 responsibility to see that this covenant is followed. The Board of Trustees has responsibility for
21 the upkeep and general maintenance of the property, and it is responsible for its renovations
22 and good maintenance.

23 A parsonage is a dwelling place provided by the church for the use and occupancy of the
24 pastors of the United Methodist Church who may be entitled to occupy the same by
25 appointment every year. The justification of this option is that it is the backbone of our
26 denomination's appointment system. The parsonage is to be mutually respected by the
27 ministerial family as the property of the church and by the congregation as the private home of
28 the ministerial family therefore, church items should not be stored in the parsonage home.

29 The property is on loan. The pastor and family are entrusted with the care of the home for the
30 duration of the pastoral appointment. To be less than Christian stewards of this "trust"
31 decreases the effectiveness of the Christian ministry. Any damage done by pets and personal
32 equipment or tools, is considered more than normal wear. The pastor will be financially
33 responsible for professional cleaning and repair. All parsonages are non-smoking and
34 parsonages with smoke damage will also cause the pastor to be financially responsible for
35 cleaning and repainting. Good housekeeping is the responsibility of the pastor, including
36 changing filters and allowing access to service persons.

37 If there is no parsonage a housing allowance should be given to the pastor in lieu of providing a
38 home and utility support. If there is a parsonage and the pastor chooses to keep their own home
39 and has the approval of the church and the cabinet, the church shall not supply a housing

1 allowance for the upkeep of their home. If there are extenuating circumstances, the pastor can
2 work with the cabinet. (See Standing Rule IV-E -4 of the Conference Journal and Yearbook.)

3 It is the responsibility of the Trustees to keep a record of the parsonage and its equipment. It
4 should include such things as a history of the parsonage, decorating and renovation dates,
5 electrical circuits, guarantees, date and place of purchases, repairs, upgrading, and whom to call
6 for service. It is the responsibility of both the pastor and the trustees to keep these records
7 updated.

8 Before emergencies occur, it is essential that the Staff/Parish Relations Committee, the Trustees,
9 and the pastor agree on who is to act when major problems happen. When authority is granted,
10 the responsible party can act. Therefore, the following guidelines are to be used: Emergencies
11 that need to be dealt with on an immediate basis should be handled according to the repair
12 service list already approved by the Trustees. Non-emergency items of concern and repair
13 should be brought for consideration or action to the Trustees at a regular or special meeting.

14 The parsonage is to be inspected annually and at the change of pastors to ascertain what items
15 of routine maintenance and decorating need attention. The parsonage committee or trustees
16 should plan and work to see that reasonable amount (approximately 1-2% of the home value)
17 are included in each annual budget to attend to these matters. An Annual Local Church
18 Parsonage Report is to be made every year at the charge conference and submitted to the
19 district superintendent.

20 The Trustees are responsible for insurance on the basic parsonage structure and church owned
21 contents for fire, earthquake, accident, weather conditions, flood, and other external causes. The
22 pastor shall maintain a renter's insurance policy for personal liability, property liability,
23 personal property, theft and other actions consistent with the form of insurance.

24 It is strongly encouraged for the parish to investigate ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the
25 home, such as solar panels or removing natural gas appliances to electric. The Trustees will
26 work closely with the pastor to install and maintain the new technology.

27 The following chart shows the standard parsonage equipment which churches are expected to
28 furnish Pastor may waive items to be furnished by initialing those. In addition, a time schedule
29 will be agreed upon as to when the items will be completed. This agreement is expected to be
30 renewed every year.

31

Have	Not Have	Items	Pastor's Waiver	Timeline to be accomplished
		Stove, electric or induction		
		Electric refrigerator with freezer		
		Hot water heater, electric or tankless		

		Microwave		
		Automatic dishwasher		
		Hardwood or laminate floors for all the rooms of the house.		
		Window shades or blinds for all rooms		
		Water softener, where hardness of water indicates		
		Kitchen with ample cabinets, counter space, good lighting, durable floor covering and place for family to eat.		
		Adequate electrical wiring for modern appliances to current applicable code with appropriate grounding		
		Garbage disposal (except with septic systems)		
		Central Air Conditioner		
		Dehumidifiers, central or units in basement		
		Sufficient insulation/storm doors/windows to insure home warmth and efficiency from heating and AC system		
		Lawn mower, snow blower, Yard tools, water hose or a lawn and snow removal service		
		Garbage, recyclable, and compost containers appropriate for area		
		Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to code		
		Fire extinguisher on each level & garage		

		Exhaust/ventilation system for bathrooms and kitchen		
		GCI outlets near sinks in Kitchen & Baths		
		High speed internet		
		Automatic High efficiency washer and electric dryer		
		Sump pump, ejector pump, check valve		
		Radon pump (if required by county)		
		Garage, double desirable, with ample space for lawn and garden equipment.		
		Automatic door opener for garage		
		Mailbox separate from church & package delivery address		

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We have read the above and agree to the conditions set forth in this covenant.

Signed by the Chair of Trustees, Date

Signed by Staff/Parish Relations Committee Chair, Date

Signed by the Pastor, Date