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Statement In Support Of Universal Background Checks To Reduce Gun Violence

The Rev. Chuck Currie

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Last month I joined President Obama and Vice-President Biden at the National Prayer Service in Washington, DC as part of the Inaugural celebration. There we prayed for an end to violence in America. Certain issues sometimes divide people of faith but there is strong agreement from the National Council of Churches, representing Protestant and Orthodox Christians, and the U.S. Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops - along with the larger interfaith community - that we must support common sense proposals to reduce gun violence in America.¹ Our schools, houses of worship and movie theaters are places we should expect to be safe. In these places we worship, we learn and we are entertained. But in recent years all these places -- along with shopping malls and restaurants and public parks -- have in moments of terror become killing fields as people with often-great mental instability who have access to weapons meant for battlefields open fire on innocent crowds causing mass deaths. President Obama has proposed several important measures, including universal background checks for those purchasing guns, which would make America safer. People of faith support efforts to reduce gun violence. NRA members, many of who are people of faith, support universal background checks. I call on all members of Oregon's Congressional delegation - both Democrats and Republicans - to put the common good of our nation and the safety of our children before the out-of-the-mainstream demands of a radicalized NRA leadership that is out-of-touch with their membership.

The Rev. Chuck Currie is a United Church of Christ minister currently serving as the minister of Sunnyside Church and University Park Church, two Reconciling Congregations in the United Methodist Church.

¹ <http://publicreligion.org/research/2013/01/january-2013-tracking-poll/>

