

Greetings Peacemaking Saints,

Together we look forward to the coming of our Savior--we hope that this message finds you focused and ready!

On behalf of the Peacemaking Ministry Team we would like to follow up with information about the "Healing from Violence: Table Talks". As a ministry team it is our hope to serve as catalysts to empower congregations to take new steps in peacemaking! To that end, we don't want to offer a model, template, outline or script for what table talks look like. Instead, we would like to offer you suggestions and helps for how a table talk **could** take shape in **your neighborhood**. Below (and attached) you will find a listing of helpful hints, resources, partners and suggestions for designing your talk.

- Again, we are hoping that you would host a neighborhood event, i.e. a local gathering of folks who have been shaped and impacted by the same events. The gathering could be **as small** and intimate or **as large** as you design.
- We would encourage the event to **include a meal** or other refreshments so that people would be gathered around the table.
- We are deeply encouraging churches to **partner together** to share in this community witness. Churches expressing interest include: Sixth Presbyterian Church; Mosaic Community Church; Second United Presbyterian Church, Wilkinsburg; South Side Presbyterian Church; Valley View Presbyterian Church; Waverly Presbyterian Church; Upper Room Presbyterian Church.
- We have a few copies of "**TRIGGER: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence**" a PC(USA) produced (and very well done) documentary that you could screen to give shape to your discussion.
- We have contacts through the **Center for Victims** (<http://www.cvvc.org/default.asp>). They are a local non-profit with counselors who could attend your event to share stories and/or provide guidance (contact Peacemaking Team member Nora Johnson (Sixth Pres.) for more information).
- Attached you will find a study guide, "**America and its guns**" that could shape your event.
- Also attached is a group process entitled, "**Common Ground**" by **Janet Chisholm** that could be used and adapted by a facilitator at your church as a framework for exploring experiences of violence in your congregation.
- The Peacemaking Team prays daily the '**Litany of Reconciliation**'. We have attached the litany (along with reference material) with the hope that you would incorporate it into your evening if so led.
- And finally, members of the Peacemaking Ministry Team could be available to attend your event for prayer and encouragement.

As you can see, utilizing these and other resources your congregation could host a 1.5 hour evening discussion, a 3 hour Saturday Group Process, a lunch-time movie screening with discussion, **whatever is most authentic for your congregation and context**. We invite you to keep praying and follow the nudges of the Comforter, the One who leads us in this work. Finally, as a ministry team, we desire to provide \$100 toward any costs for refreshments and publications to alleviate financial burden to your ministry (contact Ken White, Team Chair for reimbursement). As your plans take shape, we are glad to provide helpful feedback if needed. **Please let us know the dates of your Table Talks that we can hold your community in prayer.**

May Peace Reign!

The Subcommittee:
Ken White, Chair
Kathy Hamilton-Vargo
Helen Stallings
Nora Johnson
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