

Statement from Bishop Holston:
A Response to a Tragedy in our Nation

The video images of the officer-involved shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota as well as the shooting of police officers in Dallas will remain with us long after we have viewed them. Our newspapers and computers are filled with the images of these vicious attacks. They are deeply disturbing and painful to watch. As a people of faith committed to social justice and opposed to gun violence and racism, we grieve for the lives lost and destroyed by these acts of violence.

Even in the wake of the gun violence in Orlando, we come again to a time to examine and set for ourselves specific goals. These goals should be a faith statement of witness, advocacy and prayer.

Therefore, we are called to witness not only as faithful disciples but to witness to the world the injustices we see and experience.

We are called to serve as advocates for our beliefs and in this particular context to clearly be advocates opposed to racism in any form and in firm opposition to gun violence.

We are called to pray. Prayer is powerful. Let us all unite in prayer for these victims of racism and gun violence and their families.

As followers of Christ. We have a sacred calling to lead our communities in tearing down the walls that divide us and to engage in ministries of reconciliation. Let us continue to pray and be committed to the hard work of peacemaking in our communities.

This is our prayer for the people of Louisiana, for the people of Minnesota, for the people of Dallas and for the people of our nation and world.