

I am a pastor at a medium sized church in Rowayton, CT. Two days after the devastating shooting in Newtown I, and other clergy colleagues, were called upon to offer support to Newtown Clergy and their church members. What I saw when I arrived was more than life changing. This was a town in emotional and spiritual ruin. The death of 20 children and six adults in a small town in CT was enough to show the world that we need real change in gun laws and in the way we view our role with guns. Newtown is America. Here we are at a crossroads of fate. Do we continue on the way we have been, lax as to who can get a gun to shoot another at will or are we going to stand up and say, that's enough! No child should die because there are too many guns on our streets and not enough in the way of sane, practical and reasonable gun safety regulation. On a good day it is a challenge to be a pastor in this world with all of its heartache as well as beauty. To have to face the grim prospect of innocent citizens lying dead in a classroom which has sucked the life out of an entire town, and in my opinion an entire state, is something we need not bear. I urge the CT Legislature to save us from future slaughters like Newtown. Adopt and hold fast to *reasonable* restrictions on gun sales at shows, ban so-called "private sales" without a thorough background check and for God's sake, give the mental health community tools to effectively treat those citizens who need help. As one who works primarily for God, I never want to witness the devastation of a life that the shooting in Newtown has shown us is so easily carried out. This is not God's will, this is murder and lack of good government to stop it.

Sincerely,

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