



SOCIAL ACTION RESOURCE GUIDE 2025 - 2026

A directory of resources on issues of Social Justice and an overview of the workings of the Social Action Committee of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ...

Social Action Committee 2025 - 2026

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Contact the members of the Social Action Committee if you have:

- Additional resources you would like to have included in this guide
- Questions about the information contained in this guide
- About social justice issues the committee has not yet addressed

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SPECIAL THANKS TO...

The leadership of our Associations and the pastors and church members throughout the Maine who contribute time, talent and provide resources to the Maine Conference United Church of Christ

AND for their guidance and assistance in gathering information for this document.

DISCLAIMER: The Social Action Committee apologizes for any errors or omissions.

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings to you the people, congregations, and associations of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ:

We, the members of the Social Action Committee (SAC), present to you the most recent edition of our annual Social Action Resource Guide. The SAC was formed in late 2020 for the purpose of creating and supporting efforts that answer the call for ministries of peace, justice, and creation care. This is not ministry that we do alone. Different groups in the Conference, churches, and church members already carry out such vital work. The purpose of the Guide is to keep you informed, and inspire participation, dialogue, and growth in all that we can do for the good of our communities and world, now and for future generations.

The prophet Isaiah says “you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. You shall be like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.” Our hope is to faithfully engage us in building a more just society and sustainable planet. We hope the SAC Resource Guide will help you find your way to advocate for the common good.

Stephen Hastings
SAC Chair
September 2025

SOCIAL ACTION CHARGE

Name: Social Action Committee

Approved by the BoD on March 21, 2020

Representation:

- One representative per Association appointed by each Association.
- One at-large representative from the BoD.

Responsibilities:

- **Support, respond to, and encourage** resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference engaging in or interested in engaging in social action.
- **Collect and disseminate** information on social action engaged in by resource teams, associations, churches, people of the Maine Conference, and the United Church of Christ at-large.
- **Provide an available and ongoing way for conference-wide communication** for those resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference engaging in social action. This can include information concerning social action across the United Church of Christ.
- In consultation with resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference, **identify stances on social action that are supported by the Maine Conference. This should include assessments of the current vitality** of prior declarations and resolutions by the Maine Conference.
- **Identify opportunities for and encourage participation** by resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference at social action events reflecting stances on social action that are supported by the Maine Conference.
- **Identify and promote new social action initiatives** in the Conference, including opportunities to offer local support to social action occurring across the United Church of Christ.
- **Act as a resource and clearinghouse** for resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference wishing to present *any* resolution to the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference. That is to say that resolutions need not be limited to social action subject matter.
- **Report and respond to the Board of Directors.** Represent and report for the Committee at Association meetings.

VISION –MISSION - STRUCTURE

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Vision | Faithfully engaging others toward a more just society and planet. |
| Mission | The SAC seeks to work with resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference UCC to promote engagement in social action. This includes collecting and disseminating information about relevant social action resolutions, taking action on resolutions, and supporting and encouraging others in their social action work, both in Maine and in the wider UCC. |

Representation:

- One representative per Association appointed by each Association.
- One at-large representative from the BoD.

Broader Responsibilities:

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- Identify and promote new social action initiatives in the Conference, including opportunities to offer local support to social action occurring across the United Church of Christ.
- Act as a resource and clearinghouse for resource teams, associations, churches, and people of the Maine Conference wishing to present *any* resolution to the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference. That is to say that resolutions need not be limited to social action subject matter.
- Report and respond to the Board of Directors. Represent and report for the Committee at Association meetings.

Methods for Carrying Out Mission:

- Create and manage a Social Action Facebook page for the Maine UCC to disseminate information and provide a venue for others to share about local/other initiatives
- Create a working email list of Maine UCC church leaders to disseminate information directly to churches
- Identify a point person within each individual congregation - someone with a passion for it!
- Meet monthly as a committee to discuss resolutions and areas of focus
- Have a link to our Facebook page and newsletter/update on the Maine Conference webpage
- Collaboration with a member of the Maine Conference staff
- Build collaborations with other agencies to create a network of resources to better address social justice initiatives
- Create a catalog of social justice resources that can be shared with members of the Maine Conference and its partners.

OUR INITIATIVES

WORKSHOPS

- Immigration and “Loving Your Neighbor” (November 30, 2021) – featured Charlie Gauvin of Catholic Charities Refugee Immigration Services
- Organizing for Social Action in the Local Church (January 25, 2022) – featured the Cumberland and Waterford UCC churches
- Climate Change (February 22, 2022) – featured “A Climate to Thrive” and the “Earth Care and Spirituality Resource Team”
- Wabanaki Nations and Tribal Sovereignty in Maine: A Call For the Maine Conference UCC to Support the Sovereignty of Wabanaki Nations (October 4 & 12, 2022) – featured Osihkiyol (Zeke) Crofton-MacDonald; Walastoqey Nation Tribal Ambassador for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Maine Indian Tribal State Commission, Tribal Co-Commissioner.
- A second workshop was led by the Social Action Committee (October 12, 2022). This workshop offered a closer look at the Resolution for Support of Tribal Sovereignty in Maine, and more specifically on the recommendations for improving the 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.
- *Gun Violence in Maine: Processing our Grief and Mobilizing our Faithful Response* - Three workshops led by members of the Social Action Committee and Conference Minister Marisa Laviola at three locations -- Waterville UCC/February 7; Hammond St. UCC in Bangor/ February 10; High St. Congregational in Auburn/February 11, 2023.
- We Need Better Laws, for God's Sake: Faith in Advocacy – led by members of the Social Action Committee at the Maine Conference Annual Meeting held at Pilgrim Lodge on October 19, 2024
- Justice, Peace, and Creation Care Workshop – led by members of the Social Action Committee at the Maine Conference Annual Meeting October 17, 2025. A consensus building effort to engage and direct participants toward a more just society and planet.

BOOK STUDY

The Gathering's" Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations by Shirley Hager and Mawopiyane (June 1; 8; 15; 22, 2021) led by Dianne Morse Leonard, Reverend Doretta Colburn and Al Struck.

RESOLUTIONS

A Resolution of Support for Tribal Sovereignty in Maine was submitted by the Social Action Committee (SAC) and the Anti-Racism Resource Team to the delegates of Maine Conference United Church of Christ at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference. The resolution was passed by the delegates to Maine Conference Annual Meeting on October 15, 2022.

CALL TO ACTION

The Social Action Committee (SAC) circulated a Call to Action encouraging the people of Maine to contact the Maine legislature regarding gun safety measures tentatively scheduled for consideration in the spring of 2023 and to sign up with the Maine Gun Safety Coalition's "Sign up Network" (SUN) for updates on the status of gun safety legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Members of the Social Action Committee (SAC) provided testimony on Gun Violence Prevention legislation (LD2086, LD2224, LD2086) on March 5/7, 2024 and LD 2223 on April 9, 2024. See bill tracking: <https://legislature.maine.gov/billtracker/#Paper>.

The Chair of the Social Action Committee (SAC) provided testimony on LD1109, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices and LD677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device.

SUMMARY OF MAINE UCC RESOLUTIONS

An Urgent Call For The Prevention Of Gun Violence: Submitted By The Witness Life Commission, 2013

This resolution calls our nation to urgently enact laws that seek to prevent gun violence. It calls on the churches, pastors, and laity of the Maine Conference to courageously address this issue in prayer and witness. It asks our elected representatives to urgently enact laws that:

- (1) Ban the sale and possession of high-capacity rapid-fire weapons by individuals,
- (2) Ban the sale and possession of large ammunition magazines by individuals,
- (3) Require universal background checks and safety courses for all sales of guns, including sales at gun shows and between private individuals: and

We call on the staff of the Maine Conference to testify to our elected officials about the Convictions of this resolution. The Maine Conference is urged to promote a day of remembrance and witness against violence, where issues of gun violence and our work for peace are discussed openly and opportunities for advocacy offered.

A Resolution Declaring The Maine Conference Of The United Church Of Christ To Be An Open And Affirming Conference: Submitted By The Witness Life Commission, 2003

This resolution seeks to fully welcome people of all expressions of sexual orientation and gender identity as well as other groups who have felt historically under-represented or excluded by religious entities into the life of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. All settings of the Maine Conference (including Associations and Churches) are encouraged to consider a process by which they might discern for themselves whether to declare they are to be Open and Affirming. *Upon acceptance by the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ will be publicly listed as an Open and Affirming Conference.* The Open and Affirming Statement of the Maine Conference shall be incorporated into the By-Laws of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ.

A “Just Peace” Resolution, Asking The Maine Conference Of The United Church Of Christ To Call For An End To The US War In Iraq: * Submitted By The Witness Life Commission, 2007

The resolution calls for The Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ to declare itself a “Just Peace Conference,” and to enter into dialogue with those of other faiths to acknowledge our shared grief over the human suffering and physical damage of this war and to stand with them in their own witness for peace. The Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ disagrees with the war in Iraq and calls for an immediate bi-partisan dialogue within Congress to craft legislation which will call for political dialogue and negotiations amongst all nations within the region and an official pronouncement by the leadership of congress for an international/ inter-religious dialogue partnering toward a goal of peace with justice in our world. Then approved resolution will be sent to Maine’s Representatives in Congress and its Senators.

**This resolution needs to be examined again by the Social Action Committee as we look at our stance on “Just Peace” in light of current conflicts in which the United States has involvement*

Resolution To Abide By And Promote The Maine Council Of Churches’ Covenant For Civil Discourse Submitted By The Witness Life Commission, 2010

This resolution seeks to address the deeply disturbing examples of talk which tears down and is spoken to antagonize and inflame, and false witness which has undermined the foundations of our community. The conference calls on members of the churches and associations of the Maine Conference to rededicate itself to civility and public discourse and to sign the covenant of the Maine Council of Churches in agreement to:

1. Act respectfully to others, including those with opposing views in public debate.
2. Refrain from personal attacks while maintaining the right to vigorously disagree.
3. Refrain from personal attacks which characterize opponents as evil.
4. To refuse to make untrue statements in defense of a position.
5. To value honesty, truth and civility while striving to find workable solutions.
6. To expect that any person, party, campaign or corporation working on my/our behalf or to whom we’ve contributed time or money in support, shall follow these same covenant statements.

Resolution On Caring For The Ecology And Life On Earth As A Sacred Responsibility On Holy Ground In A Sacramental Universe Submitted By Commission On Witness Life, 2012

A resolution calling for the ongoing commitment to Earthcare as a spiritual value and an active expression of ecological and social justice. The resolution instructs the Witness Life Commission, in consultation with the Coordination Council to develop a Committee on Earthcare and Spirituality for the purpose of collating, developing and disseminating programs and resources supportive of this view of God's creation.

Resolution To Address Climate Change Through Investments In Renewable And Clean Energy Sources, Energy Conversation, And Energy Efficiency In Order To Reduce Dependence On Fossil Fuels: Submitted By The Mission Council, 2015

The resolution calls for the active use of Maine Conference energy investments to promote the development and use of sustainable clean energy sources and to improve energy conservation and efficiency, contributing to the reduction and eventual elimination of dependence on fossil fuels. It also calls for the Earthcare Resource Team to create Conference-wide programs that promote reduction of our collective carbon footprint. Steps to further this resolution's goals include:

1. Review the Conference's investments in energy and move them out of fossil fuels into sustainable sources of energy.
2. Communicate between all parts of the Maine Conference (local churches up to the state level) about ways to reinvest (or invest) in sustainable sources of energy in an economically viable way.
3. To educate all tiers of the Maine Conference about practical ways to reduce carbon footprints.
4. Implement an educational program on global warming and climate change.
5. Provide spiritual resources and worship opportunities that lift up Earth and Creation as "Holy Ground."

A Resolution Of Support For Tribal Sovereignty In Maine: Submitted By The Social Action Committee, 2022

The injustice, abuse and suffering imposed upon the tribes of native peoples in what are now the United States and Canada are well known, well documented, and not excusable in any way, either now or in the time of European conquest and colonization. The Maine Conference United Church of Christ stands in favor of:

reparation for past harms; restoration of sovereign tribal lands, life and culture; and always supporting the expressed will of the tribes on matters of tribal sovereignty. The Social Action Committee and the Anti-Racism Resource Team will facilitate actions including legislative advocacy, as supported by the Wabanaki and offering education both for and from members, congregations, and associations of the Maine Conference.

NOTE: The Social Action Committee of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ has reviewed all resolutions passed by the Maine Conference and found the seven summarized above to still be viable.

Currently, not all of these have been fully implemented. The Social Action Committee is aware of this and seeks ways to live out the intention of these resolutions.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Social Action Committee (SAC) of the Maine Conference UCC recognizes that the resources listed in Appendix A are not all encompassing. It is our hope and prayer that these resources will provide a starting point for those seeking information on these topics and more. Please contact members of the Social Action Committee if you have updated information for any of the organizations or the individuals listed. If you know of other resources that might be helpful. Please contact members of the Social Action Committee (SAC).

You may need to paste links in your browser to activate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- MCUCC Earth Care & Spirituality Resource Team – Rev. Stephen Hastings/Chairperson - stephenh11656@gmail.com
- Cumberland Congregational Church UCC - <https://www.cumberlanducc.org/> - Has a Green Team devoted to creating a community that helps protect our earth and our health by raising environmental awareness, by taking and encouraging local action, and by engaging in global thinking.
- Waterford Congregational Church UCC - <https://www.wccucc.com/> - *Climate Conversations; What Can We Do?*
- Climate to Thrive - <https://www.aclimatetothrive.org/> - Climate to Thrive works to transition Mount Desert Island off fossil fuels, rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of locally sited and owned clean energy generation, energy efficiency, and electrification.
- The BTS Center: Spiritual Leadership for a Climate Changed World – Provides programs for ordained and non-ordained, clergy and laypersons, leaders of traditional religious communities and other communities of practice — with the knowledge, skills, mindsets, and practices for effective and faithful ministry in this a changing religious landscape and a global climate crisis. 207.774.5212 | info@thebtscenter.org | www.thebtscenter.org

FOOD SECURITY

Good Shepherd Food Bank - promotes food security in Maine by improving access to nutritious and culturally relevant food for people experiencing hunger, building strong community partnerships, and mobilizing the public to address the root causes of hunger. <https://www.gsfb.org/>.

Good Shepherd Food Bank Map – Find a local food bank or pantry near you. <https://www.gsfb.org/food-map/>

Good Shepherd Food Bank Partner Agencies - Good Shepherd Food Bank works with nearly 600 food assistance programs throughout Maine, from Kittery to Fort Kent, to help get food to Mainers at risk of going hungry. <https://www.gsfb.org/get-involved/partner-agencies/>

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry – Food Assistance Programs listed by town - <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ard/food-assistance/tefap/bytown.shtml>

Feeding America - <https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

FUEL ASSISTANCE

MAINE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION/CONSUMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

<https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs>

- **Arrearage Management Program (AMP)** - Can help you reduce your past due balance. Your local Community Action Agency can help you learn more, check eligibility, and apply for assistance.
- **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** - <https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/energydetails/liheap>
- **Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP)** - Helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for heating costs, including electric heat as well as oil, propane, natural gas, and other sources.
- **HEAP & LIAP Agency Contacts** - <https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/energy/liheap-agency-contacts>
- **ECIP: Energy Crisis Assistance Program** - The Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) provides emergency fuel assistance to HEAP-eligible households.
- **MaineHousing Central Heating Improvement Program (CHIP)** - Provides central heating system repair and replacement services to low-income households. Priority is given to households that have no heat.
- **Utility Programs** - Customers of Northern Utilities, Inc. d/b/a Unitil, Bangor Gas and Maine Natural Gas receiving service under the residential heating and non-heating rates may be eligible to receive a 30% discount on their delivery and gas supply rates. The discount will apply to all customers identified by the Maine State Housing Authority as eligible for LIHEAP.
- **211 Maine** - If you need help paying to heat your home, 211 Maine can help connect you with heating fuel assistance programs to keep you and your family safe and warm
<https://211maine.org>.

Maine Wood Banks Network - <https://woodbanks.org/>

- **Midcoast Wood Bank** - <http://www.midcoastwoodbank.org> Based in Topsham, it covers Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Harpswell, Lisbon, Topsham, and Woolwich.
- **Cumberland Wood Bank** - <http://www.cumberlandwoodbank.org> - Based in North Yarmouth, it covers the towns abutting Cumberland and North Yarmouth
- **Freeport Wood Bank** - <http://www.freeportwoodbank.org> Freeport, Durham, Pownal, Gray
- **Bethel Community Wood Bank** - <http://www.bethelwoodbank.org>

Other Wood Banks in Maine

- **Downeast Wood Bank** serves families in the towns of Blue Hill, Brooklin, Ellsworth, Lamoine, Sedgwick, Surry, and Trenton.
- Princeton Wood Bank
- **Midcoast Wood Bank** - Primarily serving families in Bath, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Brunswick, Harpswell, Lisbon, Topsham, and Woolwich.

- [Cumberland Wood Bank](#) Cumberland, Falmouth, Gray, N.Yarmouth, Yarmouth
- Boothbay Woodchucks
- Waldo County Wood Bank
- Castine Wood Bank
- Community Housing Improvement Project
- [Freeport Wood Bank](#)
- Dunntown Church
- Loon Echo Land Trust- Bridgton
- [Bethel Wood Bank](#)
- Salem Township-Kingfield
- New Harbor
- Kennebec Land Trust (pending)

GUN SAFETY

Active Bystander / De-escalation Training - Prevention Action Change: offers training for Individuals to build skills to help end violence. Website: www.PACMaine.com; Phone: 207-232-0484; P.O. Box 10843, Portland, Maine 04102.

Brady: United Against Gun Violence - <http://www.bradyunited.org/> (a gun safety lobby); 840 First Street, NE; Suite 400; Washington, DC 20002 or brady@bradyunited.org.

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence -- The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) seeks to secure freedom from gun violence through research, strategic engagement and effective policy advocacy. CSGV is comprised of 47 national organizations working to reduce gun violence. Its coalition members include religious organizations, child welfare advocates, public health professionals, and social justice organizations.

Doctors 4 GUN SAFETY - <https://doctors4gunsafety.org/> -- Doctors 4 Gun Safety is committed group of physicians who advocate that gun violence represents a public health crisis in the United States. As physicians we serve as advocates for the nation's health. Our goal is to use education, research and advocacy as methods to achieve safe and responsible gun ownership and use and to be a part of the dialogue centered on protecting ourselves, our children, our patients and our fellow citizens.

Everytown for Gun Safety -- An umbrella organization coordinating the activities of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and Mayors against Illegal Guns.

Falmouth Congregational Church UCC – <https://www.falmouthcongregationalchurch.org/> - A subgroup of members who are actively engaged in gun safety advocacy. Rev. Amelia Edson – Contact the pastoramelia@falmouthcongregationalchurch.org) and/ or Peggy McGehee at pmcgehee4@gmail.com

First Church in Belfast's Working Group on Gun Legislation – A working group engaged in gun safety advocacy. Contact Judy William, bythesea584@gmail.com

First Congregational Church Blue Hill UCC - Blue Hill Gun Violence Working Group with a focus on the study of gun violence as a “wicked problem” as defined by design theorists Horst Rittel and Melvin Webber - <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/wicked-problem/about/What-is-a->

wicked-problem. Contact Ann Boudreaux, ann.e.boudreaux@gmail.com or Rev. Lisa Durkeee, lisa.j.durkee@gmail.com.

Congregational Church in Cumberland, UCC -- www.cumberlanducc.org – is willing to be a resource for those churches looking to install solar panels. Contact: Rev. Allison Smith at allisoncgsmith@gmail.com

Gun Free Kids -- GunFreeKids.org (GFK) is an Internet-based 501 (c) 4 issue advocacy organization, which provides tools for people to take action on pending state and national legislation and assists voters nationwide in learning about and supporting state-based candidates who favor gun violence prevention policies.

Guns to Gardens National Buyback Cooperative- <https://www.gunstogardens.org/> - Engages gun violence prevention by adapting the buyback model to use disabled gun parts for community healing and further engagement through the making of garden tools, art, jewelry, and other items that help us imagine and act into life giving neighborhoods.

Maine Gun Safety Coalition – hosts a weekly zoom meeting on Monday of each week at 4:00 p.m. on gun safety advocacy. They provide updates on pending legislation and gun safety initiatives. Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81645395963?pwd=fLeZYzaHZBtVafhUklwinwzTmcU1KT.1>

Mayors Against Illegal Guns -- Mayors Against Illegal Guns is a coalition of over 1000 current and former mayors across the country who have joined together to prevent criminals from possessing guns illegally.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America -- Important grassroots activist organization formed by stay-at-home mom Shannon Watts following the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.

Shippensburg University - <https://library.ship.edu/c.php?g=21651&p=126895>

This guide will serve as a starting point for Shippensburg University students wishing to conduct research on various aspects of the national debate over gun control. You will find news sources to keep you up-to-date on recent firearms issues; information on past and present gun control legislation; websites of advocacy groups; and books, articles, and reports concerning gun control.

Third Way --Third Way is a think tank that seeks to advance public policy. Their agenda includes tighter gun safety laws.

Prevention Action Change – works to build skills to end violence. www.prentionactionchange.com
Phone: 207-232-0484; P.O. Box 1083; Portland, ME 04102.

HOMELESSNESS

Central Maine

Bridging the Gap is a program that helps house and unhoused folks in the Augusta area
<https://www.btgaugusta.org/>

Bread of Life has a soup kitchen, emergency shelter, and transitional housing in Augusta: <https://mainebreadoflife.org/>

Capital Area New Mainers Project - <https://www.newmainersproject.org/> is not a project explicitly for unhoused people but it does work with new immigrants and asylum-seekers to help connect them to resources in the area.

Sue Mackey Andrews - Smandrews@gmail.com is a contact person for information about homelessness in the Dover- Foxcroft area.

Starfish Village in Waterville - <https://www.watervilleucc.org/starfish-village> - Starfish Village is a ministry of the Waterville United Church of Christ that is a comprehensive program for homeless families that provides immediate and long-term practical help, advocacy and mentoring – all structured to meet the specific needs of individual homeless families to help them successfully and more quickly transition into permanent stability. After the one-year period, Starfish Village will continue to mentor the family as needed.

Orono Housing Association - <https://www.orono.org/363/Housing-in-Orono> - Offers a variety of housing opportunities. Housing ranges from ownership for households with a range of incomes to rentals for students, seniors, and working families.

Downeast Maine

H.O.M.E., Inc. (Orland, ME) - <https://homemmausa.org/> - H.O.M.E.'s Homeless services include: Diversion, which aims to prevent homelessness prior to entering shelter, Emergency overnight shelter across four locations, and Housing Navigation which exists to assist shelter guests with finding permanent, stable housing.

Families First – <https://familiesfirstellsworth.org/> - A Family Center with residential and outreach programs serving families with children in Hancock County, Maine.

Midcoast Maine

Knox County Homeless Coalition <https://www.homehelphope.org/> - Meets basic needs, provide shelter solutions, connect to resources, and offer highly relational, trauma-informed support through programs such as The Landing Place <https://www.homehelphope.org/the-landing-placehttps://www.homehelphope.org/news/category/The+Landing+Place>

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Northern Maine

Homeless Services of Aroostook - Administration: PO Box 1753 | Midway Drive; Presque Isle, Maine 04769; 207-762-6000.

- **Sister Mary O'Donnell**
Emergency Homeless Shelter

- **Aroostook Bridge**

745 Central Drive; Presque Isle, Maine 04769; Phone: 207-764 -4125.

Southern Maine

State Street Church - <https://statestreetchurch.org/> - Has used funds from the state to rehab their church basement to create a Winter Family Shelter. They utilized a coalition of local faith communities sending volunteers each evening and overnight and are working with the City of Portland as an extension of their family shelter. Bryan Breault - pastorbryanssc@gmail.com is pastor at the State Street Church.

Preble Street - <https://www.preblestreet.org/category/street-outreach-collaborative/> - Addresses Portland's unsheltered homeless population.

York County Community Action Committee - Rachel Phipps: Rachel.Phipps@yccac.org, Meaghan Arzberger: meaghan.arzberger@yccac.org and Jennifer Davie: Jennifer.M.Davie@yccac.org.

York County Shelter; Alfred, Maine - <https://www.yorkcountyshelterprograms.com/> - Helps people address problems that led to being homeless. Offers therapeutic services, connects people to community resources, provides job training, and helps people transition into permanent housing.

Williston-Immanuel United Church (WIUC) - <https://www.wiuc.org/> in Portland is currently housing 33 asylum seekers. **Family Promise** <https://www.gpfamilypromise.org/> is doing the management of our guests. **Avesta Housing** <https://www.avestahousing.org/> will be converting half of Williston-Immanuel United Church building (if all goes as planned) into affordable housing. Rev. Reba Delzell - reba@wiuc.org is the pastor at Williston-Immanuel.

Western Maine

McKenny-Vento: Serving Students in Transition - The Maine Department of Education and Maine schools follow the provisions of the federal **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**, which aims to minimize the educational disruptions experienced by homeless students. Amanda Clark at 207-778-3031.

Monique Poulin - mpoulin@mtbluersd.org is a key contact for on for marshaling resources of many kinds for children and families impacted by homelessness in the area.

Sanford Police Department has a Mental Health Unit (works with homeless population) - aboard this team are Shannon Bentley (LCSW): srbentley@sanfordmaine.org and Lacey Bailey (OPTIONS clinician) lbbailey@sanfordmaine.org.

Acton Congregational Church UCC works with the Congolese and Angolan folks in the Sanford area. They provide clothes, kitchen items, bikes and furniture. Private families have taken in many of the folks and apartments have been found for others. Melissa Marquis - mmarquis@actoncongregationalchurch.org is the pastor at the Acton church.

Oxford County WELLNESS Collaborative - <https://www.ocwcmaine.org/> - Brendan Schauffler 207-744-6191.

HUB 5 - Is one of 9 Service Hubs across the state created by the Maine Housing Authority in partnership with cities and counties across Maine to implement a state-wide strategy to address homelessness. Kobi Perry, Director Family & Health Services at Western Maine Community Action 207-860-4492 or email info@wmca.org.

Rumford Group Homes - <https://www.rumfordgrouphomes.org/> - A community-based non-profit social service agency. We serve abused, neglected, and homeless youth and their families from throughout the state of Maine with an emphasis on the tri-county region

Oxford, Androscoggin, and Franklin Counties. Key contacts for Oxford County are Melissa McEntee mmcantee@rumfordgroiphomes.org

Stephen's Memorial Hospital/Healthy Oxford Hills (Carl Costanzi) - 81 Main Street Norway, Maine 04268 **Phone: 207-743-5933**

Pamela Williams - pamwilliams01@yahoo.com - Is a contact for information about programs for homeless population in the Oxford Hills and Western Maine area. She is affiliated with the **Second Congregational Church of Norway UCC** - 207-743- 5925.

Statewide Programs

Neighbors Need Me - <https://www.neighbors-need-me.com/takeaction> - A faith-based movement for hope, housing equity, and home.

New Beginnings - <https://newbeginmaine.org/> - Provides a **24-hour emergency shelter**, **supportive housing**, and **outreach** team help youth from throughout Maine find safety off the streets.

Maine State Housing Authority - <https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homeless> - Finances emergency shelters and other affordable housing options.
<https://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homeless/emergency-shelters> - A list of shelters by county.

IMMIGRATION

- Charlie Gauvin of Catholic Charities Refugee Immigration Services <https://www.ccmaine.org/refugee-immigration-services>
- First Parish UCC – (Gorham, Maine) <https://www.firstparishgorham.org/> or Rev. Christine Dyke christine@firstparishgorham.org
- Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition - <https://maineimmigrantrights.org/> - Their mission is to improve legal, social, and economic conditions for immigrants in the state of Maine.
- Greater Portland Family Promise - <https://www.gpfamilypromise.org/> - Their mission is to help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response.
- Neighbors Need Me - <https://www.neighbors-need-me.com/takeaction> - A faith-based movement for hope, housing equity, and home.

- Congregational Church in Cumberland UCC - Welcoming Neighbors Team works on advocacy and welcoming new neighbors including a multilingual worship service and Legal fund. Created 3 part recorded program "From Africa to Maine: Why and How People Seek Asylum in Maine" (with Prince Memorial Library) <https://www.cumberlanducc.org/from-africa-to-maine-how-can-you-help-1>
Contact Gail Witherill gwitherill@gmail.com or Rev. Allison Smith allisoncgsmith@gmail.com.
- Maine Conservation Voters - <https://www.maineconservation.org/> - Informs voters on legislation on such issues as: equity and social justice; climate change, land, water, and wildlife, elections, democracy and partnerships.
- Maine Council of Churches - <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/> or 207-772-1918 - Offering resources and programs on faith-based advocacy for social, economic, and environmental justice, with a focus on public policy and to be the public square and a prophetic voice of faith for justice, equity, inclusion, compassion, and peace.
- Help Us Report On ICE Operations In Maine: The Bangor Daily News has provided a form for those who want to send information regarding someone who has been detained. Here is the link:
<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2026/01/17/mainefocus/mainefocus-police-vourts/help-us-report-onice-operations-maine-joazk0w/>.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Maine Council of Churches - Provides resources and programs and faith based advocacy for social, economic and environmental justice with a focus on public policy, <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/> ; 202 Woodford Street, Portland, ME 04103; 207-772-1918, email: info@mainecouncilofchurches.org

LGBTQ+

Reconciling Works: Lutheran's for Full Participation –

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/resources/sogie/> - Advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church.

St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church - *What does the Bible say about homosexuality?*

<https://www.sthugh.net/lgbtq-affirming-scripture> - A collection of scripture compiled by those whose LGBTQ family members have experienced hurt and rejection because of who they were – highlighted are many messages of love and inclusion in the Bible to help people consider the original meaning of the passages used to condemn LGBTQ people.

Transmission Ministry Collective – <https://transmissionministry.com/resources/> - An excellent collection of resources dedicated to the spiritual care, faith formation and leadership potential of transgender and gender-expansive Christians.

Out Maine - <https://www.outmaine.org/> - Creates and supports LGBTQ+ youth and their families and allies with specialized programs

ONA Coalition - <https://openandaffirming.org/resources/issues/> - The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ advocates for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and their families through inclusion and justice in the UCC, and beyond.

Intermed - <https://www.intermed.com/> - Is in Southern Maine and they provide gender affirming care.

Pilgrim Lodge - Maine Conference United Church of Christ - <https://www.pilgrimlodge.org/> - Pilgrim Lodge is an Open and Affirming camp with inclusive practices for all gender identities. Camp Pride, a week-long program for LGBTQ+ youth and allies, and Pride Across the Ages, for individuals and families, are sessions that focus on creating an affirming space for conversations around spirituality, identity, and love for self and others. Pilgrim Lodge Director: Elizabeth Charles McGough - echarles@pilgrimlodge.org

Maine Trans.Net - Is a community based organization led by transgender people for transgender people that provides peer-to-peer support groups, social and community events, and advocacy for the transgender community across Maine, and transgender cultural competency training for medical, mental health, and social service providers. <https://www.mainetrans.net/>

Maine Council of Churches - Provides resources and programs and faith based advocacy for social, economic and environmental justice with a focus on public policy, <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/> ; 202 Woodford Street, Portland, ME 04103; 207-772-1918, email: info@mainecouncilofchurches.org

Liturgy

Enfleshed: Spiritual Nourishment for Collective Liberation - [tps://enfleshed.com/](https://enfleshed.com/) - Prioritizes spiritual nourishment by and for those in communities that are undervalued, under-resourced, or under-appreciated through creative theologies (art, poetry, music and experience as theological sources) and ensures anti-racist values/theologies in all programming and content.

Books

A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQ Youth by Cody Sanders
Transforming by Austen Hartke

MENTAL HEALTH

United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries - [All Are Welcome! - United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries \(uccdm.org\)](https://www.allarewelcome.org/) – Provides a variety of resources to assist faith communities with the tools needed to become accessible to all.

Maine Mental Health Phone Resources:

- 211 - Statewide services and help available 24/7
- 1-866-771-9276 – Intentional Warm Line – Statewide peer support specialist for mental health recovery
- 988 – Statewide Crisis Line – Psychiatric intervention and assistance with a Mental Health Crisis
- 911 – Emergency Services – Call or go to your nearest Emergency Room for immediate care in a safe environment

National Maternal Mental Health Hotline (HRSA – Health Resources & Services Administration) – For a new parent – or about to be who is feeling sad, worried, overwhelmed, or concerned about being good enough to parent. For emotional support or resources:

- Call – 1-833-852-6262
- Text 1-833-TLC-MAMA

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

- Here we are. Send Us! Part 3 - Women Seeking Reproductive Healthcare
- Resource lists from Session 1 (immigrant community) and Session 2 (LGBTQ+ community) of this series: <https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/2025/01/here-we-are-send-us-2/>

DENOMINATIONS' POLICIES ON: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

- Episcopal: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr/summary-of-general-convention-resolutions-on-abortion-and-womens-reproductive-health/>
- ELCA: <https://www.elca.org/faith/faith-and-society/social-statements/abortion>
- PCUSA: <https://pcusa.org/how-we-serve/justice-peace/reproductive-rights>
- Quakers: https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/Faithful%20Sexuality_0.pdf
- UUA: <https://www.uua.org/action/statements/reproductive-justice>
- UCC: <https://www.ucc.org/reproductive-justice/>
- UMC: <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-united-methodist-position-on-abortion>

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY

- MCUCC Anti-Racism Resource Team – Rev. Crissy Cataldo - pastorchrissywcc@gmail.com & Rev. Allison Smith - allisoncgsmith@gmail.com
- **Wabanaki Alliance** - <https://wabanakialliance.com/> - The Wabanaki Alliance was formed to educate people of Maine about the need for securing sovereignty of the tribes in Maine.
- **Wabanaki Reach** - <https://www.wabanakireach.org/> - Supports the self-determination of Wabanaki people through education, truth-telling, restorative justice, and restorative practices in Wabanaki and Maine communities.
- **Maine Indian Tribal State Commission:** <https://www.mitsc.org/contact>
<https://www.mitsc.org/about#members-and-staff>.
- Osihkiyol (Zeke) Crofton-MacDonald - zcroftonmacdonald@gmail.com - Walastoqey Nation Tribal Ambassador for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and Maine Indian Tribal State Commission, Tribal Co-Commissioner.
- Rev. Doretta Colburn - colburndoretta@gmail.com – Workshop leader for *The Gathering's*” *Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations*
- Dianne Morse-Leonard - dmorseleonard@gmail.com - Workshop leader for *The Gathering's*” *Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relations*

APPENDIX B: TEMPLATES

RESOLUTION PROCEDURE FOR PRESENTATION AT MAINE CONFERENCE UCC ANNUAL MEETINGS

A. PROCEDURE

All proposed resolutions for the Maine Conference UCC Annual Meeting must be received in the Conference office no later than 75 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Proposed resolutions will be reviewed and approved by the Coordinating Council prior to being distributed to the delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting.

B. SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions may be prepared and submitted by the following individuals or organizations:

- (1) Any local church of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, provided the resolution has been approved for submission by the congregation or by the official governing body of that church. The date voted, number supporting, opposing and abstaining should be reported when the resolution is submitted.
- (2) Any Association of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ, provided the resolution has been approved by submission at a duly called meeting of the Association or its Executive Committee.
- (3) Any structure created by the Conference By-Laws, or by an annual meeting or a special meeting of the Conference.
- (4) The Coordinating Council of the Maine Conference United Church of Christ.

C. FORMAT

Resolutions and Other Formal Motions shall include the following information:

- (1) A brief title which must accurately reflect the intent of the proposed motion. The names of the church or body presenting the Resolution shall be included.

- (2) A brief summary that accurately reflects the content of the Resolution
- (3) The biblical, theological and ethical rationale; and the expected outcome.
- (4) The text of the motion.
- (5) A statement that the implementing body is responsible for developing the strategy and program designed to implement the Resolution.
- (6) All resolutions must be submitted to the Conference office via e-mail, in WORD format. Resolutions should be double-spaced, and each line should be numbered.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Two representatives, from the group submitting the resolution, must lead the Hearing on the resolution on Friday afternoon before the Meeting.
- (2) Members of the Group submitting the resolution must be present when the resolution is presented, discussed and voted on at Annual Meeting.
- (3) The group submitting the Resolution must complete the Resolution Information Form and submit this form with the Resolution for consideration by the Board of Directors.

E. RESOLUTION TEMPLATE

.MAINE CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RESOLUTION INFORMATION FORM

TO ACCOMPANY

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION IN (YEAR)

A proposed resolution must be accompanied by this Information Form

In order for the resolution to be considered. Please be succinct.

NAME OF CHURCH BODY SUBMITTING: _____

VOTE: _____ SUPPORTING _____ OPPOSING _____ ABSTAINING

TYPE OF RESOLUTION: _____

1. Title of resolution: _____
2. State the purpose of this resolution and expected results.
3. What would the Maine Conference UCC be expected to do as a result of this resolution's adoption?
4. Who would implement or follow-up the resolutions on behalf of the Maine Conference UCC?
5. What would be the costs of implementing this resolution? What is the proposed source of the funds?

Please be as specific as possible.
6. What kind of report back is expected? When? By whom? To whom?
7. Who will be the presenter of the resolution at the Annual Meeting of the Maine Conference UCC

with the authority to accept or reject any changes in the resolution proposed at the Annual Meeting?

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

APPENDIX C: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

CALL TO ACTION - EXAMPLE

A CALL TO ACTION TO MAINE'S FAITH COMMUNITIES

SEEKING GUN SAFETY LAWS IN MAINE

ALL OF US want the people of Maine, young and old, to be safe from gun violence. Yet, there is a relentless increase in gun suicides, homicides and injuries in Maine. This is not the world we want for ourselves, our veterans, our children, or our grandchildren.

Today in Maine, anyone can buy any gun, including semi-automatic weapons and large capacity magazines, in a private sale, without a permit, without safe gun use training, without a background check.

Maine is a source state for criminals who come here to buy guns that they can't buy in their own states that have universal background checks. The shooter last year in Canada who killed 22 people bought his guns in Maine

As people of faith we affirm that life is sacred. We are called to love and protect one another- to tend to the weak and the needy and deliver them from the hand of the wicked; and to be peacemakers (Leviticus 19:18; Psalm 82:4; Matthew 5:9).

We are encouraged and hopeful that the Maine legislature will be considering gun safety measures in the spring of 2023. These measures can give us a start toward gun safety.

As people of faith we call for the Maine legislature to pass these three common sense gun safety laws:

1. Require permits to buy or carry a gun, permits would include mental health and criminal background checks, and responsible gun use training; **(L.D. 168)**
2. A 72 hour waiting period before a gun is delivered from a seller to a buyer; **(L.D. 60)**
3. A "red-flag" law so family or friends of a person threatening gun violence to themselves or others can get a gun-confiscation court order **(no L.D. yet assigned).**

States that have enacted these laws have made their citizens safer. These laws do not violate the 2d Amendment: only "law abiding and responsible" persons have a right to bear arms (Supreme Court 2022). Non-law abiding and irresponsible persons do not, and these laws will help keep guns out of their hands and prevent them from doing harm.

As people of faith we ask and pray that you will vote to enact these measures and keep our neighbors, ourselves, and our families safe.

We need to have our voices and presence in the halls and rooms of the Maine Legislature at times when either the legislative committees or the full House and Senate consider and vote on the pending gun safety bills. Opponents of Gun safety show up in numbers at votes and often intimidate lawmakers. You can testify in writing, or by zoom, or in person, or just show up in support, and you can contact your own legislator.

If you are able to show up on a critical vote day please let us know: we need to build a robust network of gun safety supporter through-out Maine.

And please sign up on-line with the Maine Gun Safety Coalition's "Sign up Network" (SUN). See: <https://www.mainegunsafety.org/show-up-network>. Anyone who signs up with SUN will get an "alert" from it about what legislative bills are coming up for hearing, and will receive a background memorandum with information and points in support of the bill. Knowing when to show up--and then showing personally in the Statehouse in Augusta--is critical to help persuade legislators to listen to those who feel unsafe having no gun regulation, and move them to support common sense Gun safety laws.

****WHAT ARE THE LIMITS TO LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY?**

- ☐ "IRS rules indicate your non-profit status is only in jeopardy if you devote more than 20% of your paid staff time to lobbying."
- ☐ "It is recommended by the Maine Council of Churches that one steers CLEAR of partisan politics."
- ☐ "Don't endorse or oppose candidates or political parties."
Caveat: One can do so if speaking personally, but not as a representative of a church, conference or association unless it has been approved by that body.
- ☐ "You can comment on, advocate for, or oppose legislation, even though bills are (obviously) sponsored by people from one party or another."
- ☐ "Your testimony and commentary should focus on the merits (or flaws) of a bill, regardless of who sponsored it, and should always be framed in faith-based language and logic."

SUBMITTING TESTIMONY AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND/OR CHURCH

Follow this sequence of websites:

1. Register to Testify Electronically (Zoom) and/or Submit Testimony: <https://www.maine.gov>
2. Legislative: <https://legislature.maine.gov/>
3. Testimony submission: <https://www.mainelegilature.org/testimony/>
4. If testifying In Person at a Legislative Hearing: <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/Documents/Testifying>

TIPS TO SUBMITTING WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLINE

If you cannot be present at a public hearing you can SUBMIT online Testimony.

Steps to Submitting Written Testimony Online:

- ☐ Click this link: <https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>
- ☐ Select Public Hearing
- ☐ Select Public Hearing
- ☐ Select Judiciary from the drop down committee list
- ☐ Select hearing date
- ☐ Type your testimony into the form or upload your testimony
- ☐ Your testimony does not need to be lengthy or profound.
- ☐ Just state that you are in support of LD Number and urge the committee to vote "Ought to Pass." You can also write more, if you wish.

. Things you need to know when submitting testimony:

- You may sign up to testify electronically (Zoom) or submit written testimony as soon as the bill is scheduled for public hearing;
- To testify electronically (Zoom), register AT LEAST 30 MINUTES before the posted start time of the meeting; registrations after that time will be accepted at the discretion of the committee chairs;
- Testimony received after the day of the public hearing will be distributed to committee members and staff, but it will not be published online;
- Testimony will be publicly available online as soon as possible after the day of the hearing;
- Your name and the organization you represent or the town in which you live, as specified by you on this form, will accompany the publishing of your testimony;
- Include your name and organization or town of residence on any documents;
- If you are having problems with this page, please [click here](#) to email the webmaster.

RECENT TESTIMONY EXAMPLES



Testimony to the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing on: LD677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee:

My name is the Rev. Dr. Stephen Hastings, a resident of Winthrop. I submit testimony on behalf of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ as the Chair of its Social Action Committee in support of LD677.

I write representing Christians and people of faith from a Congregational tradition who follow one known as the "Prince of Peace" and "the restorer of streets to live in." We feel called to action by events of gun violence and mass shootings in our State and Nation. We have long advocated for restrictions on rapid-fire, high-capacity guns. In 2013 the Maine Conference of the

United Church of Christ adopted its own Resolution called An Urgent Call for the Prevention of Gun Violence. Twelve years on we still feel its urgency. We remain committed to: its intent to create safe and uplifting community with less grief and fewer victims; and its resolve to: ban the sale and possession of high-capacity rapid-fire weapons by individuals.

LD 677 and other legislation before the Maine Legislature will help do this.

As it says in scripture, "Faith without works is dead." Gun Violence Prevention is work that needs to be done. Please take firm action in the name of those who died in Lewiston and many other cities, towns, and schools across our nation, and on behalf of those who may yet be spared from the worst assault enabled by high-capacity rapid-fire weapons.

Submitted by,

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hastings

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Social Action Committee, Chair

Winthrop Resident



**Testimony to the Judiciary Committee's Public Hearing
on: LD1109, An Act to Reduce Gun**

**Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the
Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding
Devices**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and Members of the Committee:

My name is the Rev. Dr. Stephen Hastings, a resident of Winthrop. I submit testimony on behalf of the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ as the Chair of its Social Action Committee in support of LD1109.

I write representing Christians and people of faith from a Congregational tradition who follow one known as the "Prince of Peace" and "the restorer of streets to live in." We feel called to action by events of gun violence and mass shootings in our State and Nation. We have long advocated for restrictions on rapid-fire, high-capacity guns. In 2013 the Maine Conference of the

United Church of Christ adopted its own Resolution called An Urgent Call for the Prevention of Gun Violence. Twelve years on we still feel its urgency. We remain committed to: its intent to create safe and uplifting community with less grief and fewer victims; and its resolve to ban the sale and possession of high-capacity rapid-fire weapons by individuals.

LD 1109 and other legislation before the Maine Legislature will help do this.

As it says in scripture, "Faith without works is dead." Gun Violence Prevention is work that needs to be done. Please take firm action in the name of those who died in Lewiston and many other cities, towns, and schools across our nation, and on behalf of those who may yet be spared from the worst assault enabled by high-capacity rapid-fire weapons.

Submitted by,

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hastings

Maine Conference United Church of Christ

Social Action Committee, Chair

Winthrop Resident