

## **PSC Addendum: Working Group on Firearms**

### BYM Working Group on Friends and Firearms

#### Scope of Work

This Working Group aims to anchor its work in the Friends' testimony for peace to prevent/address violence, with the special concern for the immediacy and devastation of gun violence in its various manifestations: disregard for that of God in each one, hate crimes, senseless killings, bystander shootings, suicides, public health effects, and so forth. We feel that Friends are called upon to be a people who are deeply concerned by the violence in our society and to respond in ways that are grounded in our central testimonies.

The working group will seek out practical ways to engage with one another while acknowledging our different paths and perspectives and to pursue and share out factual information about the many scourges of gun violence. At the start, we see our work as seeking together to identify and bridge divides among us – possibly Friends in the Yearly Meeting, and certainly Americans in our communities. We have not yet discerned more with respect to actions that Friends might take collectively or individually, after a period in which we gather resources to aid Friends & Meetings to consider gun issues through the lenses of our Testimonies; and see where that may lead the WG. Preliminarily, we will consider measures such as: developing talking points to facilitate personal and public conversations that can get past oppositional statements; identify and make available workshops, speakers, sessions at periodic Friends gatherings, beginning with an Interest Group Session at annual sessions.

#### Initial members:

Barbara Bezdek (Baltimore-Homewood), Convener

Annette Breiling (Frederick)

Cathie Felter (Baltimore-Stony Run)

Julie Kunz (Frederick)

Beth Tauser (Warrington)

Eileen Stanzione – liaison for BYM Ministry and Pastoral Care