

## **Kingdom Dreams/Violent Realities: Exploring Micah's Vision and Admonitions**

**(Adapted from a study prepared by General Board of Church & Society, 2016)**

**Join Laity and Clergy as we explore violence in America and seek to live a Christian ministry of peace and justice in community committed to personal and social holiness**

**When: Sunday, November 3, 2-5 p.m.**

**Where: Ashland Christ UMC, 1140 Claremont Avenue, Ashland OH 44805**

### **WHY JOIN THIS DISCUSSION?**

As conflict continues to escalate in America today, now more than ever is a time to join in reflection on the overarching message of our shared values as people of God, seeking wholeness and wellness in an increasingly fractured social sphere. As followers of Jesus and leaders in the public space, we need time together to be in informed conversation, to refresh our vision and hope for peace and harmony, and to support each other as a community of believers, to move forward, faith-fully.

### **PREPARING FOR THE DISCUSSION: Following materials will be provided upon RSVP:**

Book of Prophet Micah, with particular focus on Chapters 1-4;  
Resolution #3428: 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church  
Bishop Sally Dyck's Prefacing remarks to the study (to be made available to all participants)

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW and PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

"Micah's vision of The Common Good" v. Gun Proliferation and Access in the U.S. today  
"Transformation" v. The Impact of Increased Access on Suicide & Domestic Violence  
"Flourishing" v. Mass Shootings in America: exacerbation of conflict, hate speech, racism

### **PROGRAM FORMAT**

Documentation of gun acquisition, use, and impact in America today informs our understanding of a more comprehensive reality than episodic news accounts of "active shooters," personal accounts of shock, suffering, and loss, and allows us to reflect more clearly on the protected status of guns throughout America's communities today. Discussions will be led by facilitators to guide discussion relevant to the several topics. Contrasting that reality with the vision and hope Micah articulates deepens our understanding of what we hope for, and what we are experiencing. While each person will take away his or her own understanding, position on guns in America, and decision as to how to proceed "from here," it is hoped that we will gain, together, a sense of our united concern and desire to create a community different from that in which we now live: where the random violence of "active shooters," unexpected loss of loved ones we are unable to protect, and fear pervades the lives of too many of our youth.

**RSVP NOW: REGISTRATION FEE Waived; donations accepted onsite**

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Email Tom Douce: [doucethomas@yahoo.com](mailto:doucethomas@yahoo.com)

**Please include this information with your RSVP information:**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**How many you are registering for (List Names)** \_\_\_\_\_