



## **CG USA Statement on political violence against former President Donald Trump in PA**

*([Web](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#))*

Common Ground USA strongly condemns today's violent attack on former President Trump.

We wish him a swift recovery and our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who was directly affected by today's violence. Violence has no place in our political process. We unequivocally condemn violence against any candidate or political leader, as do the overwhelming majority of Americans.

In the coming hours and weeks, it is important for us to come together and remember that we have ways to work out our differences without violence. Our political process and our democracy depend on our ability to remember that we are all Americans. We remain committed to this ideal, and we invite everyone to join us in reaffirming their commitment as well. This is a moment where leaders of all stripes and backgrounds must speak out against violence publicly and in no uncertain terms.

We also call on people to take care in what information they share or amplify. In situations like this, it is crucial that we don't let bad actors use this to divide us.

### **Talking Points for Christian Clergy:**

*(this is intended to be ecumenical and a starting point; please adjust these as necessary to your denominational/congregational context)*

- As clergy leaders, **our faith compels us to be peacemakers**. In Matthew 5, Jesus summarized character traits for someone representing his kingdom, and said in verse 9, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called sons of God." Peace is the bedrock of resilience to division.
- Part of our identity as "adopted" (Rom. 8:14-16) children of God is **to imitate the role of Jesus as a peacemaker**, working toward the reconciliation of people to God and to one another as representatives of Christ's kingdom. This places peacemaking as a central component of the gospel. Not only do we receive peace with God through Christ, but people who are normally distant from one another are drawn together in Christ. In turn, a theology of peacemaking requires the Church to see itself as "being" peacemakers to effectively "do" the work of peacemaking.
- Peace is an active process; **we are called to be peacemakers, not simply peace-wishers**. We are to love not merely in word or talk, but in our deeds (1 John 3:18). **What we say and do right now matters**.

- **An essential role of peacemaking is love of neighbor - and Jesus defines neighbor broadly**, including those with different ethnic and religious viewpoints, among other distinctives (Luke 10:25-37). **We called to take the initiative in loving our neighbor** - indiscriminately, lavishly, across all lines of division, as if they were our very selves (Mark 12:30-31).
- James 3:17-18 speaks to the result of this peacemaking work: “But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peace-loving, gentle, compliant, full of mercy, and good fruits, unwavering, without pretense. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who cultivate peace.” Fruit on a tree cannot be forced to grow; it can only be cultivated. In the same way, **the Church will be the kind of influence in the world that cultivates peace by “being” the peaceful presence of Christ**, committed to effectively representing him through the ministry of reconciliation.

### Tips for Taking Action:

- **Check in with the people who are quiet or who have been wrestling deeply with the current political environment**, on either end of the political spectrum. Your pastoral care and personal concern can go a long way in disrupting any fear or rash decisions.
- Pro-actively **set goals with your faith community** that deal with issues and actions of unity, inclusion, political polarization, and the difference between constructive disagreement and destructive conflict. [See Potential Action Items below]
- **Don't get trapped in the cycle of divisiveness**, and try to keep your community out of it, too. However, do stay on the lookout for larger concerning trends, such as calls for political violence.
- **Focus on shared interests, values, and goals, and work to separate people from problems**. Help your community to understand that they are working on a shared project of fellowship and spiritual growth.

### Potential Actions to Foster Unity:

[Love Anyway Feast](#)

[Peace Is Possible Pledge](#)

### Resources:

[Peacemaker's Toolkit](#)

[Peacemaker Starter Pack](#)