

Brookfield, WI, Living Church of God Tragedy

Official Statement of the United Church of God

We in the United Church of God, an International Association, are shocked beyond words at the events encompassing the tragic and senseless slaughter at a Living Church of God Sabbath service in Wisconsin on Saturday. For many decades, those of us with an Ambassador College and Church of God tradition have strongly taught and preached the Ten Commandments which, as we all know, includes the command "You shall not murder" (Exodus 20:13). Violence and aggression have no place in any of our collective teachings and traditions.

News accounts here and abroad describe the gunman as "troubled" and depressed. Whatever his state of mind at the time, the outcome was horrific and it will profoundly impact us all. Our main concern now is for the survivors and families affected by this irrational and heartrending act. We in the United Church of God call upon all who fear and worship God to collectively and earnestly pray for the healing and comfort for those aggrieved. Today there are families who have lost their father, their mother, their sister and their brother. Their loss is our loss. In the face of such a tragedy, one's mere words seem very inadequate but the combined support of many helps ease the suffering.

We know that the day is coming soon when "God will wipe away every tear. There shall be no more death, no sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Sadly, as the events of the Wisconsin Sabbath confirm, that day is not yet here. God speed that day, and may God strengthen us all with His love and mercy.

In loving concern,
Roy Holladay
President