

Statement of the shooting in San Bernardino

A Statement from Sandra Roberts, President of the Southeastern California Conference, on December 3, 2015 in response to the deadly shooting in San Bernardino, California.

The Southeastern California Conference is shocked and saddened by the tragic mass shooting that occurred yesterday, December 2, in San Bernardino, a major city within our territory. This incident took the lives of 14 precious children of God and wounded another 21. We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the families of these victims. We also pray for those present in the building, those affected by this event as well as the larger community of San Bernardino who are experiencing the heartache that comes as a result of this tragedy.

It is difficult to express the feelings that such a heinous and violent crime have left us with. We struggle that in our country and in our own backyard we must yet again mourn the loss of the lives of God's children.

It is time to engage with our communities in an open conversation as to how hatred and violence can be ended. It is time for our churches and our members to become advocates for love and peace.

Yesterday several of our pastors in the San Bernardino area were called in to the crime site to provide pastoral and counseling care for people that were impacted by this tragedy. I am grateful for the work they have done, and now we need to tangibly help bring healing to this hurting community.

I pray for a day when shootings will be but a far distant memory in our minds. I pray for a day when human dignity is preserved by all people. I pray for the day when all of God's children can live in harmony and peace.