



COMBAT SUICIDES & MASS SHOOTINGS (UMC Summary)

July 09, 2024

In the **North Central Jurisdiction** of the **United Methodist Church**, a pioneering **Faith-Based** approach to tackle the **escalating crisis of mass shootings and suicides** has been established. This initiative has taken shape through the launch of a website, www.ReThinkHopeUMC.org, referred to as **ReTH**. **The Objective: Reach *troubled persons* before they get to crisis mode and decide to commit such destructive acts.**

UMCs that decide to get involved in the campaign to help persons struggling with thoughts of committing suicide, may use **ReTH** in part or as fully outlined. They will have the full support from the **ReTH Development Team** whose members are from different **UMCs** and other **Christian Denominations**.

The **website** is a growing informational hub of statistical data and various crisis management resources. **ReTH** is not the only way to carry this fight.

ReTH is an approach of '**What to Do Now**'...**Prayer with Action!**

ReTH's Affirmation of Faith, expressed in the **Nicene Creed**, is poised to make a significant reduction in suicides. A few noteworthy features of this initiative:

- **Dedicated Prayer Phone Line and Prayer Wall** aim to provide support to those facing circumstances that may be pushing them toward thoughts of suicide or contemplating mass shootings.
- **Messages of Hope**, with **Reality Checks**, targeting persons on the edge of destruction. These messages posted on the **ReTH** website will also appear on Billboards at selected locations, as well as on Flyers, Posters, and other items used to promote this ministry (i.e. T-shirts, cups, pens, etc.).

The **UMCs Becomes a 'First-Line of Contact', an **Oasis**, for persons on the edge of self-destruction. Volunteers are needed for every segment of this ministry:**

- **ReTH Advocate Teams** will offer support to ***troubled persons***, coordinating activities including training and getting support from local agencies.
- **ReTH Group Encounter Meetings** – **UMCs** can offer forums (public and private) for troubled persons to air their pain.
- **ReTH Victims Assistance - ReTH Advocates** will stand 'shoulder to shoulder' with bereaved family members, traumatized by suicide.



Additionally, the **ReTH** website will serve as a platform to connect individuals with professional help through the promotion of the **988 Suicide Crisis Hotline**. **ReTH Ministry endeavors to bridge the gap between faith-based support and professional intervention.**

50,000+ suicides recorded in 2023. 1453 school shootings since 2022. The data dictates action is needed **‘NOW’** to combat this crisis! Are you ready to help?

What’s needed today is for **UMCs** to say, ‘Yes’ to the **ReThink Hope Ministry** **with volunteers** to support it by doing the following:

- **Establish ReTH Advocate Team (3-5):** Schedule a Town Hall Kick-off Meeting announcing **ReTH** to the surrounding community where attendees would hear how this ministry plans to combat this crisis.
- Establishing contact with local agencies that are in this *battle*.
- Look for platforms that will allow the **ReTH Message** to be broadcast.
- Allow the **ReTH** link to be accessible from **UMC’s** main web page.
- Give **ReTH** a presence at local street venues and fund raisers.
- **Financially Supporting ReTH** - **\$10** a month from each **UMC** member would help cover website expenses, printing posters, renting billboards, conducting Suicide Prevention Training Classes, and the Prayer Request Phone System.

You may call, email, or join the **ReTH Development Team** on our informational calls every **Thursday, 6:30 PM CST, Zoom ID: 851 5015 2857 PSWD: 247730**

Looking forward to your reply.

God Bless

Wallace H. Neal, UMM National Prayer Advocate 314-681-1008

Development Team Leader whnummpa@gmail.com

Richard Campbell, NEJ UMM Communications Servant 443-517-3084