**Church Safety Procedures**

Due to the sensitive nature of safety/security, we do not make our protocol available outside of our safety team. We encourage other churches to develop their own comprehensive safety protocol.

Though we have developed relationships with local law enforcement officials and officers in our communities and hire for our services, you can also develop a safety team of volunteers to fill these roles. There will be law enforcement officers in the congregation that may be willing to assist with filling roles and developing these teams. Also members with military experience make good team members.

Some key areas/situations to consider when addressing safety:

* Developing a partnership with local law enforcement that serve with pastoral teams to create safe worship experiences. **Key areas to focus on:**
  + Start with one the Children’s area. Have an officer or volunteer always present at the children’s check-in to help staff. This is a vulnerable area due to the children being completely dependent on the staff or volunteers. Also, it gives the parents a sense of relief to know they can worship without being concerned about their child’s safety. This position should be filled before any others. Also develop a sticker system for check-in/check-out. This helps control the access to the children’s area.
  + Next would be team member/officer to roam the lobby areas and cover the offering during collection and sorting.
  + Depending on your location and traffic situation, you could hire officers to help traffic entering and exiting and then come inside to fill a position after the service begins.
  + The last team member/officer would be a plainclothes officer in the sanctuary. They only respond to violent incidents. Train ushers to handle all issues that involves disruptions, babies, loud people, etc.
* Develop security protocols for Kids and Nursery spaces.
* Develop security protocols for areas where money is handled. Have an officer or volunteer to escort the offering after collection. Always have two people present whenever offering is counted or collected.
* Develop appropriate level of surveillance in key areas
  + Exterior doors
  + Common areas
  + Areas where money is handled
* Consider scenarios for your public/staffed spaces:
* Tornado/Sever Weather
* Fire
* Earthquake
* Power Outage
* Intruder
* Medical emergency

It’s also important to have a training program for the parking team, ushers and greeters to help them recognize and effectively provide another level of protection. The parking team and greeters are the first ones to encounter members and guests. Teach them what to watch for and how to report it before the person or persons get too far inside the church. Teach the “see something, say something” method.