

Church Security

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Church,

Due to recent concerns across the nation I want to share my thoughts on safety of church attendees.

These are only ideas that I have come up with for consideration and topics that I feel need addressed when considering security for a church.

I know there are many smaller incidents than the two I have listed in the links below. Both listed articles did have heavy fatalities and were committed by individuals that had attended or had family that was attending the church where the incidents occurred.

It is my hope that we can be both pro-active and re-active in eliminating as much potential for violence as possible.

Articles:

[Texas Church Shooting](#) Nov 2017 26 people killed, 20 injured, ranging from 1 year old to 77. Baptist

[Charleston, S. Carolina Church Shooting](#) June 2015? 9 People killed at Bible Study. Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

[A Top Reason for Church Shootings: Domestic Abuse](#) November 7, 2017 article.

[Church Shootings Overview Chart](#)

[Be cautious of what you hear:](#) One article suggests 18 school shootings this year; this video shows only three had violent intent.

Governor of KY – Recent Video on School Shootings – Get familiar with different view points

Tucker Carson Video – Deadly School Shootings

Concern: What path will be followed within your church/organization to help safeguard your members from gun and weapon violence.

Possible Consideration for Review:

1. **Security Cameras:** Around exterior of building would possibly pickup on individual/s approaching with obvious weapon or other strange activity.
 - a. Cost

b. Maintenance

c. Monitoring

2. Parking Lot Attendants/Greeters

a. Knowledgeable of large percentage of congregation

b. Helps members, equipment, supplies, and elderly into building.

c. Early intervention helps minimize amount of violence by possibly assisting in lock down procedure and/or other protocol.

d. Direct communication via portable radio with door greeters.

e. Update Greeter and parking lot attendant guidelines and procedures.

f. Have data base of members and their vehicles mostly to eliminate vehicles of concern but also to identify a vehicle as quickly as possible as to ownership that may help with concern.



g.



This church has GOD
As Protector
We also have procedures
in effect to help
minimize traumatic situations

- j. Consider a sign shop to make your own signage as above or listed here:
 - i. “ Extra Security is currently in effect”
 - ii. “ We take your safety into consideration while attending (Church)”
 - iii. Etc...
 - iv.



- v.
- k. Signage – Placing an open sign that “(Name of Church/Organization) Recently Implemented New Safety Measures for our Congregation” along the driveway entrance to our parking lot.
 - i. Great deterrent
 - ii. Safety committee members do not talk about entire meeting discussion other than what the Pastor openly divulges in church environment. Many people not knowing what is implemented makes them less likely to test the plan.
 - iii. Crime is typically committed at the easier targets.

3. Security (Armed)

- a. Hiring Armed security
- b. Allowing Church members to carry
- c. Member Carry
 - i. Knowledge creates Liability issues – Heavy discussion and concerns about encouraging and authorizing reference that persons stability and qualifications.
 - ii. Do Not Post – Gun Free Zone. Allow congregation to know that if they feel endangered and carry concealed for safely attending that they will still be welcome. Very delicate issue sometimes.

4. Prime Suspects to commit

- a. Most Likely – Dis-satisfied member or past attendee of church as displayed in both in Charlotte, SC and more recently in Texas.
 - i. Educate congregation on Family needs and recognition through Sermon
 - ii. Implement counseling services of some sort to help deal with family early on to help catch potential violence prior to catastrophic behavior.
 - iii. [Peer Trained Counselors](#) have much success in developing contact with those in need to help deal with and recognize people whom may be helped or recognized prior to more violent situations occurring. Rewards for becoming more Pro-Active and the need for Re-Active response is minimized. This would be confidential (with limits), possibly more of a referral service to get the individual the help they need. Many times an individual may approach a peer counselor because of fears they have about another individual.
- b. Terrorist Profile – Opposing Belief of our church structure
 - i. Not as likely to occur as listed above.
 - ii. Terrorist are most likely to try to do as much damage as possible to harm many. More likely will attack locations that have less visible safe guards.
 - iii. Possible early detection by parking lot attendant or cameras around exterior of building.
 - iv. Consider implementing decal or auto respond ID system at parking lot entrance. Pay special attention when vehicle not previously ID by system for early detection.

5. Implementation Plan:

- a. Code system possibly by ringing three bells – etc...
- b. Consider Door Auto Lock Down

- c. Consider Police Emergency Button/s
- d. Create and dispense Procedures to congregation. Paper and web site.

6. Summary:

- a. Implement Committee to brain storm and discuss what is considered best for the church from different perspectives.
- b. Develop ways to help on two approaches both Pro-Active and Re-Active
 - i. Offer help as in early detection, counseling, and intervention.
 - ii. Implement Church safety procedures discussed in committee meeting.
- c. Review liability concerns with legal counsel, prior to implementing.

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