

Church Security

Church,

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

These are only ideas that I have come up with and need to only be used as consideration and the thought process of developing security procedures for your church or organization.

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 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.

I would be glad to speak further reference to this sharing of information if desired.

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.

Concern: What path will we follow within our church/organization to help safeguard our 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
 - 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.



h.



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



iv.

3. Security (Armed)

- a. Hiring Armed security
- b. Allowing Church members to carry
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- 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.

Albert Gross

405-216-5296 Home

706-264-0496 Cell

eagleeyeinc@windstream.net