

## Active Shooter Plan

It is unfortunate that there are these type of occurrences, however with society being as it is and the threat of terrorists, it has become a reality. Fortunately there are not many of these incidents, however when it happens it happens quickly and deadly. Churches have become targets in recent years as they are 'soft targets' like schools. Per the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, three actions are recommended. These incidents are usually over in about ten minutes, so there is very little time to assess the situation and take action.

1. Run! Be aware of exits wherever you are. Leave belongings behind and keep your hands visible if you see Law Enforcement personnel so they do not mistake you for the shooter. Call 911 as soon as you are safe.
2. Hide! If getting out of the building is impossible, hide where the shooter cannot see you. If you can get into a room, lock the door, turn the lights out, and silence your cell phone. If there is a window in the door, stay behind furniture so as not to be seen-stay calm and do not move around. Call 911 if you are able to quietly.
3. Fight! If you cannot get out or hide, the last resort is to fight. Remember it is your life or the life of others so fight hard and fast. Look for weapons of opportunity, such as a fire extinguisher, chair, or other heavy items to hit the attacker with. Team up with others to jump him together. Incapacitate the shooter and disarm him.

Unlike a business or an office, our layout is difficult to create a true plan. If church is in session, an intruder could charge right through the narthex or in from the entrances by the alter into the chapel and open fire. In a case like this people would have to get down, or those close to doors try to run out. Clearly, an effort to take the shooter down (fight) would seem to be the necessary option. If during the week, people in the office area, great hall or other rooms, would have more of an opportunity to either escape at the sound of gunfire, or hide.

It is incumbent upon the ushers and elders who greet people to be aware of suspicious people coming in prior to services. Be wary of anyone who is not a regular member, showing signs of nervousness, a reluctance to be acknowledged, lack of eye contact, bulky unseasonable clothing. These are indications of someone who may be up to no good. Heavy coat or bulky clothes, may be concealing a weapon. Be careful when approaching such an individual as he (or she) may take action if made to feel threatened.

### **1. HOW YOU SHOULD REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES:**

- Remain calm, and follow officers' instructions
- Immediately raise hands and spread fingers

- Keep hands visible at all times
- Avoid making quick movements toward officers such as attempting to hold on to them for safety
- Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling
- Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating, just proceed in the direction from which officers are entering the premises

**2. INFORMATION YOU SHOULD PROVIDE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OR 911 OPERATOR:**

- Location of the victims and the active shooter
- Number of shooters, if more than one
- Physical description of shooter/s
- Number and type of weapons held by the shooter/s
- Number of potential victims at the location