



Resources for Addressing Church Security and Safety

As our congregations return to worship after the events in Texas we have compiled resources available to you and your congregation regarding Church Security and Safety. The list is not comprehensive but hopefully will help if the challenging questions of “what if” arise.

- The 2016 General Conference adopted the following statement regarding gun violence: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence>.
- Previously, the 2000 General Conference adopted language making clear that since “the Church’s traditional role has been one of safety and sanctuary...every United Methodist Church is officially declared a weapon-free zone.” The full text of that resolution can be found at <http://calms2016.umc.org/Text.aspx?mode=Resolution&Number=3426>.
- A detailed set of resources for churches discerning steps to create a plan for an active shooter emergency may be found at: <https://www.churchmutual.com/index.cfm?pid=2257&pageTitle=Risk-Alerts&riskalertid=84>.
- Comprehensive Approaches to assessing Risk and identifying remedies can be found here: <https://www.churchmutual.com/123/Risk-Reporter-for-Religious-Institutions>.
- Useful guidelines from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for mitigating risk can also be found at: www.fema.gov/protecting-houses-worship.
- Practical Preparation Tips:: <https://www.rebekahsimonpeter.com/churches-and-gun-violence/>
- Also advice from a police officer: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2007/august-online-only/protect-your-congregation-from-gunman.html>

In addition to these resources you may wish to check with your local police and sheriffs' departments for counsel regarding matters of congregational safety. For example, some departments offer to provide a free safety security survey for religious gathering places.