

Church Security Resources

At the closing of the 2015 Clergy Session of the Virginia Conference, a concern was made to address congregational safety in the wake of the shootings at the Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. Ultimately the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Virginia Conference concluded this is a topic more appropriate for the Cabinet to address. The Cabinet addressed this concern and offers the following resources to help address congregational safety.

The 2012 Book of Resolutions: *"Reflecting the traditional role of The United Methodist Church has been one of safety and sanctuary, every United Methodist Church is officially declared a weapon-free zone."*

<http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/gun-violence>

Other websites:

<http://www.handgunlaw.us/documents/agopinions/VAAGOpinionCarryInChurches.pdf>

<http://www.wcyb.com/news/washington-county-virginia-sheriffs-department-offering-church-safety-seminars/33681332>

http://www.richmond.com/news/local/article_7214d83e-8121-57c4-98b6-e320deb100a9.html

Church Mutual's PowerPoint presentation on "Church Shooter Intrusion"

<https://www.churchmutual.com/media/safetyResources/files/ProtectingAgainstAnActiveShooter.pdf>

Comprehensive Approaches to assessing Risk, remedies:

<https://www.churchmutual.com/123/Risk-Reporter-for-Religious-Institutions>

Armed Security considerations:

<https://www.churchmutual.com/index.cfm?pid=2257&pageTitle=Risk-Alerts&riskalertid=9>

FEMA

www.fema.gov/protecting-houses-worship

In addition to these resources please check with your local police and sheriffs' departments for addressing congregational safety.

Blessings,
Bob Parks,
Dean Virginia Cabinet

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