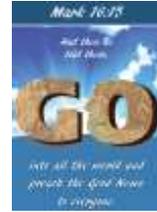# Memorandum

**To**:        UISBC Churches
**From**:    Gary McKean
**Date**:     January 22, 2018
**Subject**:  Church Security

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Across the nation, churches are increasingly becoming aware of the need to address matters of church security. Acts of violence, especially those involving active shooters, are happening and present fearful images to all of us.  How does one explain, let alone understand, these things? More importantly, how do we prepare for such incidents?  The critical first step is for each of us to realize that violence and shootings can happen anywhere and at any time. We cannot afford the approach that "it can't happen here."  So, what can we do?

Some churches, UISBC churches, have already taken the initiative and hosted church security workshops or met with their local law enforcement agencies. There are numerous resources for church security. Your initial effort should be to contact your local law enforcement agency, whether that be a city police department or county sheriff's office. They will be pleased to talk with you about such things, inspect your facilities, meet with you and your leaders, and conduct workshops. Remember, they will be the first to respond to any situation.

We have compiled a list of *Church Security Resources* to assist you in approaching the whole subject of church security. A copy of that list is attached for you. It is posted on the UISBC website under the RESOURCES tab under LEGAL.

We have also received permission from the Church Law & Tax Report to provide you the attached copy of their excellent article; *5 Ways to Protect Your Church.* It is posted on the UISBC website.

These resources are centered somewhat on violence and shooters but also address other serious matters. It is very advisable that your church have policies in place as to risk management, child care and protection, and emergencies. It is likewise advisable to consult with your insurance companies for their input and resources.

We are here to serve you and trust that these documents will prove helpful to you.