

Bethel UMC  
129 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lewes, DE 19958

## **Active Shooter Plan**

### **DEFINITIONS:** *(For purposes of this Plan)*

An active shooter is defined as a person or persons who appear to be actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in the church or on the church grounds.

### **PROCEDURES:**

1. The first church member to identify an active shooter situation:
  - Call 9-1-1 and state there is an active shooter at Bethel UMC, 129 West 4<sup>th</sup> street,
  - Report to the dispatcher the following:
    - Number of shooters
    - Number of victims
    - Exact location of the shooter
    - Type and number of weapons possibly in the possession of the shooter

**\*911 Dispatch can take information from many callers and it helps them to identify as much as they can about the situation.**

2. While the reporting person is on the phone with 9-1-1 others should alert those in the church to an active shooter situation.

### **HOW TO RESPOND WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY**

#### **1. Run**

- **Have an escape route and plan in mind**
- **Leave your belongings behind**
- **Keep your hands visible**

#### **2. Hide**

- **Hide in an area out of the shooter's view**
- **Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors**
- **Silence your cell phone and /or pager**

#### **3. Fight**

- **As a last resort and only when your life is in an imminent danger**
- **Attempt to incapacitate the shooter**
- **Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter**

*(Taken from the Department of Homeland Security Active Shooter)*

4. **If an Active Shooter comes into the area where you are:**
  - Do not provoke the active shooter.
  - If there is no possibility of escaping or hiding, only as a last resort when your life is in imminent danger should you make a personal choice to attempt to negotiate with or overpower the shooter
  - If the active shooter(s) leaves the area, barricade the room or go to a safer location.

5. **If the Active Shooter is not located where you are or if you are not able to leave the area safely:**
  - Remain calm
  - Warn others
  - Go to a room that can be locked or barricaded
  - Lock and barricade doors or windows
  - Turn off lights
  - Close blinds
  - Block windows
  - Turn off radios or other devices that emit sound
  - Keep yourself out of sight and take adequate cover/protection (i.e., concrete walls, thick desks, filing cabinets)
  - Silence cell phones
  - Call 9-1-1
  
6. **If you are in an outside area and encounter an active shooter, you should:**
  - Remain calm.
  - Move away from the active shooter or the sound of gunshot(s) and/or explosions(s).
  - Look for appropriate locations for cover/protection (i.e., brick walls, retaining walls, parked vehicles, etc.)
  - Call 9-1-1 and provide the information listed above.
  
7. **The objectives of responding law enforcement officers are:**
  - Immediately engage or contain the active shooter(s) in order to **stop the killing**.
  - Identify threats such as improvised explosive devices (bombs)
  
8. **How to respond then Law enforcements arrives:**
  - Remain calm and follow instructions
  - Put down any items in your hands (i.e., bags, jackets)
  - Raise hands and spread fingers
  - Keep hands visible at all times
  - Avoid quick movements toward officers such as holding on to them for safety
  - Avoid pointing, screaming or yelling
  - Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating
  
9. **When Law enforcement arrives:**
  - First responding officer may be in teams
  - They may be dressed in normal patrol uniforms, or they may be wearing external ballistic vests and Kevlar helmets or other tactical gear
  - The officers may be armed with rifles, shotgun and handguns.
  
10. **When the police arrive please share the following information if known:**
  - Number of shooters
  - Number of individual victims and any hostages
  - Type and number of weapons possibly in the possession of the shooter
  - All individuals still in the area

**Resources:** Sheepdog Church Security:  
[www.sheepdogchurchsecurity.net](http://www.sheepdogchurchsecurity.net)

Department of Homeland Security  
[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active\\_shooter\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/active_shooter_booklet.pdf)  
[http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active\\_shooter\\_pocket\\_card\\_508.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active_shooter_pocket_card_508.pdf)