

# ACTIVE AGGRESSOR POLICY

Liberty Presbyterian Church

The safety, security and overall preparedness of members and staff is a top priority of the Session of Liberty Church. The Session believes that creating a conscientious plan that is continuously reviewed and updated, and regularly practicing safety procedures will help prepare our church in case of an emergency.

The Session has taken several steps to increase the security of our campus, with the focus on Sunday mornings. These steps include locking key access doors, distributing security flashlights, closing blinds in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Carriage House rooms, and employing a deputy sheriff to patrol the grounds on scheduled Sundays.

This document instructs members and staff of Liberty Presbyterian Church on our protocol in the event of an active aggressor on the church campus.

## Definition

An “active aggressor” is a person who initiates violent or threatening activity against anyone on the church property.

## Safety Objectives

1. The primary objective in an active aggressor incident is to remove everyone from the site of the aggression to safety as quickly and safely as possible.
2. The second objective in an active aggressor incident is to stop the aggressor.
3. The third objective in an active aggressor incident to contact police to intervene.

## “Run-Hide-Fight”

The Session affirms the Delaware City Police Department’s recommendation of the “Run-Hide-Fight” protocol for houses of worship in case of an active aggressor incident.

- **View:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0> (6-minute video by City of Houston)
- **Read:** [https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1472672897352-d28bb197db5389e4ddedcef335d3d867/FEMA\\_ActiveShooter\\_OnePagerv1d15\\_508\\_FI\\_NAL.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1472672897352-d28bb197db5389e4ddedcef335d3d867/FEMA_ActiveShooter_OnePagerv1d15_508_FI_NAL.pdf) (two-page guide from Federal Emergency Management Agency)



## **Emergency Communication**

The Session is currently pursuing acquiring technology so that an emergency text alert can be sent to all members' cell phones in case of an active aggressor incident.

## **Preparation**

The Session strongly encourages every Liberty member to be mentally prepared for an active aggressor incident, specifically:

- Review your normal routine at church on Sunday mornings.
  - Where are the closest exits for all the places you occupy?
  - Where are the best/closest hiding spaces?
  - What barricade materials are close at hand? (e.g. chairs, tables, boxes, benches, etc.)
  - What materials are available to fight against an intruder? E.g. items you can throw (Bibles, bench cushions, keys); items you can strike with (folding chairs, candle stands, etc.)
- What skills do you have that will be helpful in an active aggressor incident? (e.g. self-defense, first aid)

## **Ongoing Review**

The Session continues to review Liberty's campus security and will continue to take actions to deter active aggressor incidents.

(Adopted by Session, August 29, 2018)