



5 QUESTIONS EVERY CONGREGATION SHOULD ASK ABOUT SECURITY

A short, honest checklist for boards, staff, and volunteer leadership.

You don't need a professional assessment to start thinking seriously about security, you just need to ask the right questions. Here are five to start with.

01

DO WE ACTUALLY KNOW WHO'S ON OUR PROPERTY DURING A SERVICE?

Most congregations have multiple entrances open at once, especially during high-attendance services. If a stranger walked in through a side door during your busiest hour, would anyone notice, and would anyone know what to do next?

02

ARE OUR GREETERS AND USHERS TRAINED, OR JUST PRESENT?

Standing at the door is not the same as knowing what to watch for. A well-meaning volunteer without guidance is a presence, not a safeguard. Ask whether anyone has ever walked your greeters through what "something's wrong" actually looks like.

03

WHAT DOES OUR PARKING LOT LOOK LIKE AFTER DARK?

Lighting, sightlines, and blind spots around your building matter more than most congregations realize, especially for evening services or events. Walk your lot at night, not just during the day, and see it the way a stranger would.

04

IF SOMETHING HAPPENED RIGHT NOW, DOES ANYONE HAVE A PLAN, OR JUST GOOD INTENTIONS?

"We'd figure it out" is not a plan. Ask your staff and volunteer leadership directly: if there were an emergency during a service, who's actually responsible for what, and has anyone practiced it?

05

HAVE WE LOOKED INTO FUNDING BEFORE ASSUMING WE CAN'T AFFORD THIS?

Many congregations rule out a security review because they assume it's expensive, without ever checking whether grant funding exists to help offset the cost. That's often the wrong assumption to make first.

This checklist won't catch everything a trained eye would, and it's not meant to. It's a starting point for your own conversation, not a substitute for a real walk-through.

READY FOR A DEEPER LOOK?

REQUEST A NO-COST CONSULTATION