



Be Prepared.

Avoid | Deny | Defend™

During an act of violence (e.g. robbery, hostage situation, workplace violence, active shooter):

AVOID starts with your state of mind.

- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Have an exit plan.
- Move away from the source of the threat as quickly as possible.
- The more distance and barriers between you and the threat, the better.

DENY when getting away is difficult or maybe even impossible.

- Keep distance between you and the source.
- Create barriers to prevent or slow down a threat from getting to you.
- Turn the lights off.
- Remain out of sight and quiet by hiding behind large objects and silence your phone.

DEFEND because you have the right to protect yourself.

- If you cannot Avoid or Deny be prepared to defend yourself.
- Be aggressive and committed to your actions.
- Do not fight fairly. THIS IS ABOUT SURVIVAL.

CALL 911 when you are in a safe area.

When Law Enforcement arrives, **SHOW YOUR HANDS AND FOLLOW COMMANDS.**

Remember that Failure to Plan is Planning to Fail.

Preparation and Awareness

- Familiarize yourself with the layout of the church, especially locations of the exits (priest sacristy, Margaret's Parlor, narthex, altar guild sacristy).
- Regularly check that exit routes are clear and accessible.
- Have a means of communication, such as a cell phone to alert authorities or communication with other church staff during an emergency.
- If you or someone else may be in danger **DIAL 911**.
- Notify law enforcement of suspicious activity by calling **West U. Police Non-Emergency at 713-668-0330**. You do not need to have staff approval.

Subject to officer availability, there is at least one off-duty law enforcement officer present on campus during our morning services: 7, 9, and 10:30 a.m.

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas does not permit any person, including clergy, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors, to carry a weapon in our churches or schools. This prohibition applies even if the person is licensed to carry a concealed weapon under Texas law. [This does not apply to badged law enforcement officers.]