

Church Executive

HELPING LEADERS BECOME BETTER STEWARDS.

CHURCH SECURITY & SURVEILLANCE



Presented by:

**Air Comm; Allegion, PLC; CyberLock, Inc.;
National School Control Systems, LLC; One
Call Now; Strategos International; Uniview
Technology (uniview tec)**

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Church security & surveillance

Expert advice for helping to prevent — and, if necessary, respond to — a security emergency on your campus



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In a lot of churches, an “it-can’t-happen-here” mentality prevails. But how big of a threat is a security emergency?

Bill Cushwa: Let’s quickly dispel the false sense of security.

Our school shooting occurred seven years ago in Chardon, Ohio. Three children died. It’s a sleepy, historic small town. Now, consider the idyllic communities of Virginia Tech, Parkland, rural Pennsylvania Amish country, and Sandy Hook.

Churches designed to be open and welcoming are vulnerable to extremism and targeted violence.

Don’t narrowly focus on ‘active shooter,’ since our products have been used more frequently for violated restraining orders, custody disputes, domestic violence that comes into the worship space, and neighborhood incidents that suddenly move onto church or school property.

Chris McConnell: While it’s difficult to imagine why a place of worship would be the target of a violent act, recent history has shown that nowhere is safe, including churches. Critically, many churches don’t have security measures in place. Attackers know that at many churches, they can walk in without having to pass through a metal detector or similar security.

In the same way that schools now have emergency plans and locked doors in place, I believe we’ll see churches starting to adopt these types of strategies.

John Moa: Most churches in America take an open-armed, open-door approach to their communities. But at some point, the doors are locked and the facilities secured with valuables onsite. Then, it becomes a security consideration. Especially in large churches, audiovisual equipment, computers and musical equipment all become targets for theft.

Also, large congregations typically want to make their facilities available to other groups. Obviously, that introduces a variety of complexities, schedules and security issues.

Keith Shaver: Houses of worship are welcoming by nature, with open access and public schedules for worship services and special events. Where there are a large number of people gathering at a specific time, this openness can present unique opportunities for someone with a motive to make a statement.

To show the possibility of a threat, I have churches simply perform a Google search of topics such as ‘church crime,’ ‘church robbery’ or ‘church thefts’ in their local community. This usually returns information and examples of several crime incidents.

Additionally, there’s a resource published by Carl Chinn [www.carlchinn.com] which focuses on crime statistics in houses of worship and faith-based schools.

A quick check with local law enforcement will be helpful, as well.

Brad Aikin: Churches, unfortunately, are at risk for security threats due to their unique operations.

There is a sizable assembly of people in a single, common area, and they typically gather on a predefined schedule. Many churches have schools or daycare services, which can increase risks associated with child security or family conflicts.

Additionally, churches don’t always have access to the security information required to be disclosed among local municipal and state facilities.

Barry Young: Churches are a soft target because attendees’ backs are to the entry point of the threat. So, their attention is away from the threat. Also, virtually all churches take a public cash offering.

Are most churches prepared to respond to a security emergency?

Moa: No, most churches aren’t prepared for emergencies, whether it’s an active shooter, a natural disaster, or somebody with a restraining order.

In part, it’s because they don’t know what resources are available, especially police, fire and emergency services. Generally, communities try to stay ahead of problems and would love to educate on how to be proactive about security.

Shaver: Many churches have taken measures to protect their staff with intrusion or burglar alarm systems and are now beginning to investigate the video systems to extend the security coverage.

But are they prepared to respond to an emergency response? Probably not — that requires ensuring staff and volunteers are trained and have a well-thought-out plan to deal with the situations that can arise.

The response must start with a trained security and safety team that is then complemented with electronic security capabilities.

Aikin: Typically, churches only have adequate security to thwart basic theft or vandalism. Most have not prioritized a security emergency response plan, which should be created and communicated to staff and members.

Implementing the proper security culture within a church is crucial. This should be viewed as the responsibility of the collective group, not a single individual or committee.

Young: The majority of churches are not prepared for a security emergency. There are several indicators of this.

First, almost 100 percent of public schools have trained their staff in lockdown training — meaning they know what to do to stop a threat and how to protect students — while almost no churches have trained nursery, Sunday School and children’s ministry leaders how to respond if a threat were to come into their ministry room.

Second, most churches don’t have trauma training or a trauma kit. A first aid kit is good, but churches need a trauma kit. A good trauma kit has a minimum of tourniquets, a chest seal, and quick-clot bandaging to stop the bleeding-out of wounds.

Finally, many churches have a key problem: they don’t know how many keys they’ve given out; they don’t know who has the keys; they don’t know how to get the keys back; and they don’t have a written key policy to make sure there’s no unauthorized access.

McConnell: No, I don’t think that most churches are prepared to respond to a security emergency. But with the existing and growing threat of violence, churches much start to consider, as part of their mission, protecting their parishioners and visitors while within their doors. This starts with putting a plan in place that includes comprehensive communication, surveillance and security. This important first step will put churches on the right path to improving safety.

Cushwa: Churches are moving in the right direction, but they’re still ill-prepared. Greeter programs are the most effective form of security. Making eye contact and addressing each individual in a specific manner is a low-cost way of sizing up a situation. Noticing odd behavior or addressing a known challenging individual can stop trouble at the door. >>

How can a church make itself less of a target?

Shaver: Being visible — with people and technology — is one of the most important factors. Door-greeters, welcome committee members and security-minded volunteers walking the parking lot all provide a visible indication that security is a concern.

Video cameras which are clearly visible and pointed to the parking lot and entrances of the church will provide another visible security measure. The cameras provide a sense of well-being for members and guests, but also clearly illustrate to others that images are being recorded and viewed live.

The presence of a local law enforcement vehicle at services can also serve as a deterrent, as is the presence of a uniformed law enforcement officer inside the building.

Aikin: Begin by developing a plan that addresses prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. To ensure there is secure control of the facility, consider: *Who has authorization to manage access? How is access controlled during various events such as large gatherings, daycare drop-off and pick-up? Who as authorization to replicate and issue keys? and Is there an accurate record of who is assigned keys for access and who has master keys?* If not, consult a local security integrator or locksmith to gain secure credential control.

Young: *Lock-out, get-out, take-out.*

First, *lock-out training.* Staff need to be trained in how to lock out a threat. This can be locking out a threat from main access doors, to doors of classrooms and offices.

Next, you need *get-out training.* Personnel need to be trained in how to evacuate a building. In addition, personnel need to be trained in how to create an exit.

Finally, make sure *take-out training* is in place. In a worst-case scenario, staff need to know how to stop a threat with the tools in their classrooms, offices, or wherever they are in the facilities.

McConnell: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Being on top of a security situation before or during the fact — not after — is one way to really help prevent tragedy.

The first and most essential piece of a church's security plan should be communication. Two-way radios provide communication among a large number of people. In the event of a security incident, radios allow a church to have instant communication with staff, visitors and volunteers.

Another consideration for churches is live-monitored security cameras. We have a division that produces security cameras that are 100-percent live-monitored, meaning that a church can respond instantly by contacting law enforcement and implementing its security protocols. We can even install an intercom system, allowing monitors to speak directly to anyone in the church over a loudspeaker. Obviously, this type of system provides clear advantages to simply reviewing videotaped security footage after the fact.

Cushwa: Work through a comprehensive emergency operations plan for all types of emergencies, from fire, to tornado, to gas leaks, allergies and hostile intruders.

What can we do to create safe interior spaces, should all these other approaches break down or be thwarted? That's where our attention was when developing Bearcade.

It's critically important to have your local fire and police responders tour and know your buildings. You should also invite your neighboring districts, who would also be responding.

Finally, don't fluff going through the motions when practicing your emergency drills. You'll perform as you train.

Moa: About six months ago, my own church deployed local resources — the civic groups and so on — to ramp up our security. I, as part of CyberLock, Inc., also had practical experience to lend.

The first step is lighting. The more, the better.

Second, make sure you have control of your keys. Often, mechanical keys are given out with a sort of open-door philosophy — *Why have just one person with a key and always be bothering them? Why not give everybody a key?* This is where a system with smart locks comes into play.

Third, you need an alarm system. Surprisingly few churches have one.

Finally, cameras. Merely having a visible camera is a deterrent.

In the event of a security emergency, what are the most critical elements of an effective response plan?

Aikin: The most effective element of an emergency response plan is the plan itself. It's critical that members and staff know what actions to take in an emergency.

Second, communication. As part of the plan, it's important that members know what information to communicate, to whom and how. This can include audio systems, remote alert buttons, mobile devices and more.

Finally, a good security plan implements layers of security to help mitigate the progression of emergency events. This should start beyond the property perimeter and parking lots and progress to building perimeter, corridors, offices, classrooms and assembly areas.

Hillary Keller Bowling: Communicate.

During the event (if possible), you must be able to send notifications to those on site to shelter in place or to get out.

After the event, alert the congregation of the incident, when it is safe to return, or of any needs that have arisen due to the event.

Cushwa: *Information is king.* Any details, alert or guidance greatly improves your ability to choose the right direction, whether it's evacuation, sheltering in place, or preparing to engage or address the situation.

Inaction and indecision are not an option — not for when my daughter is having an allergic reaction, nor for a hostile intruder. Decide. Act. Commit.

Not having supporting tools puts us all in a riskier position. EpiPens®, tourniquet training, AEDs (automated external defibrillators) and fire extinguishers are joined by my Bearcade unit as public response options before emergency services arrive.

Maintain your position until you're 100-percent sure the good guys have arrived. Worshipers were safely concealed during the recent Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy but came out of hiding when they thought the shooter was gone. He retreated back into the worship space when confronted by responding police and shot at least two more individuals.



McConnell: Instant, widespread, communication is essential. When an incident happens, everyone needs to be aware of it right away.

First and foremost, not panicking is key.

Second, execute the plan. If no one knows the plan, or if it can't instantly be communicated, it's not worth much.

Moa: The biggest element is preparation. Have a structured plan, including ways to communicate what's happening. Otherwise, it can be chaos.

Next, have a follow-up plan. For example, if there's a fire, most companies would know to reconvene at X facility, area or place. There, you can get a headcount.

Finally, have a way to account for what happened.

Shaver: First, remember that there has to be a plan, and that plan must be followed as written.

Second, communication to staff and members outside the immediate threat area must be done to protect those not in the area of the emergency.

Third (or as soon as possible), law enforcement must be contacted.

Finally, the church must allow law enforcement officers to take control of the situation.

How can tech or physical devices and tools provide surveillance or added protection for churches?

Young: Now is the time to invest in these technologies. We recommend churches start by having locks on almost every door. Most children's areas I visit have no locks, or extremely weak locks. We need a powerful lock on each door to an area that has people in it, especially children's spaces.

Cushwa: Good businesses will work with you to ease acquisition costs. Some can be added immediately — that's our goal and passion. If you're waiting for the George Jetson solution, who are you putting at risk today?

McConnell: Communication and security technologies have dramatically improved. It's not nearly as expensive as it used to be to get a security system installed in a church or a school. These systems can be alerted when there's movement in a hallway, all the way down to if someone stops in that hallway for more than five seconds.

Further, two-way radios provide a method of instant communication. Many large churches have instituted radio communication systems. Radios are a simple, compact and easy-to-use tool that can greatly enhance security for churches.

Moa: I believe the vast majority of all U.S. congregations are under 300 in attendance. So, they might gravitate toward lighting or other low-tech security tools.

On the higher-tech side, a smart lock / smart key type of system is quite affordable. One could deploy it and expand over time. For example, start with one entry point, then the worship facility inventory room, then the accounting room, and anywhere else valuables are stored. It doesn't take much labor to pull out a mechanical core and put in an electronic one. There's no laying wire or pulling cables.

Shaver: Surveillance needs to be operational 24/7. You simply can't achieve that level of security coverage without technology. Burglar alarm systems ensure you have a secure building as staff members arrive early or depart late, or after youth functions or praise band rehearsals. Video cameras provide the live view and recorded video history of an event.

Investigate technology tools as soon as possible. The layered security method recommends you begin with a base and expand to greater capabilities when funds are available to invest in the technologies.

Aikin: Don't buy technology until a security assessment has been conducted. This ensures the proper technology is identified, coordinated and implemented. And when it comes to choosing solutions, it's important that openings still have free egress. Seek out options that ensure life safety, as well as security.

Consult your police and fire departments regarding local codes and requirements, as well as security professionals such as commercial integrators and locksmiths. They can assist in the acquisition of tools, including prioritization of needs to be addressed.

Who should be trained to use these security and surveillance tools, and what form might that training take?

Cushwa: All full- and part-time staff should be required to go through training — for bloodborne pathogens, CPR, allergic reaction response, and using Bearcade units — and acknowledge, in writing, that they attended and understood it. We spend more time on the training, handling what-if scenarios, and documentation than we do providing our units.

In churches, all volunteers, aides and regular building users should also go through the training.

I like in-person, classroom training sessions. You can see who's unsettled, who's grumpy, who's confused, and how it's all being accepted.

Keep a professional log of the training (something we provide to every safety partner) that documents who attended, what was introduced, what questions were raised, what handouts were provided, and how follow-up was handled.

McConnell: Two-way radios are intuitive and easy to use. This is part of what makes them such a helpful tool for enhancing safety and security. Indeed, almost everyone has used a two-way radio, or at least understands the basics of how they work. You can teach about 95 percent of what a person needs to know in a one-minute conversation — how to power it on, turn up the volume, use the push-to-talk button, how the earpiece works, and so on.

With respect to security cameras, you'd want to put those under a few people's responsibility, as it's a more long-term role than managing two-way radio use. Monitors need to be aware of how those cameras work and are used.

Moa: Typically, you'll have better training continuity with staff. I envision a structure where a Deacon board or Elder board member — somebody highly committed to the congregation — takes on the primary liaison role between staff and volunteers.

There should also be a second person knowledgeable of the system, since redundancy is extremely important. Then, have a few secondary conduits, or liaisons. >>

Buy from security companies versus big-box stores, as security companies want customers to experience competent service and consistent updates. Often, it makes sense to go back to the manufacturer and ask, 'Are there tips for helping us facilitate training?' Usually, they're free — but you might not know these resources are available unless you ask.

Shaver: A staff member should always be in the leadership position to serve as a liaison to other staff and volunteers, provide accountability, and show the importance of church security. Meanwhile, volunteers will be needed on worship and event days so the staff can focus on meeting ministry needs.

Volunteer training should be ongoing. Threats change as communities grow, and technology advancements are ongoing, so the volunteer force must continue to be trained.

The best technology training resource is the local security equipment dealer and the equipment manufacturer.

Aikin: Appropriate staff should be trained in the administration of security resources. All staff and volunteers should be able to operate security devices with limited or minimal training and — again, most important — should be trained on the security plan.

This training should be part of all initial onboarding. Subsequently, this plan should be revisited, updated and discussed frequently with members.

Young: We recommend parking team, ushers / greeters, children's workers, and security team be trained on security and surveillance tools. Over time, more and more staff should be brought into the training.

We recommend a full day of training. So many people want to take a one- or two-hour class, but we're talking about saving people's lives. During stress and duress, we'll only remember and recall what we've trained. Our churches need training that also includes scenarios.

Keller Bowling: Having a mass notification system in use regularly will ensure messengers are trained on using the system, are comfortable with the system, and can even save messages in the system to send in case of emergency.

Anyone who needs to message the whole congregation or groups within the congregation should be trained on these tools.

Ongoing training use ensures you're ready to use the system when the unthinkable happens. If you have a messaging system but don't use it regularly, monthly trainings are advised. Training should include sample calls / emails / texts that can be sent as reminders for fundraising, stewardship, festivities, weather events, and more.

What's the typical learning curve for tools like these?

Moa: On a large campus that incorporates cameras, or even a smart key system, the person managing and caring for these tools should understand a bit of software functionality, as well as security — maybe a facilities manager. He or she should understand audit reports, or how to stop an access permission for somebody who shouldn't be there. This person can also rely on the dealer, reseller or factory.

Shaver: Using the layered approach, the church can start with simple and reduced-complexity technology tools to limit the learning curve. Training for a simple intrusion panel can take just a few minutes. Training of the video system can take just an hour or less.

Aikin: The administrative activities of security solutions can vary. This should be a key discussion when consulting with a designated security

professional. There are solutions designed for self-administration. Or, many security providers offer the ability to monitor and manage the security of your facility on your behalf. This can include video and physical access control monitoring, creation and deletion of credentials and other needs.

Young: You'd be amazed what a staff member can learn from just four hours to a full day of training. Real-world techniques that have been enforced through scenario training can make a world of difference.

Keller Bowling: One Call Now is simple to use and can be used on the same day as purchase. Training takes very little time.

McConnell: Our company facilitates most of the video surveillance monitoring; but we do allow the church staff to pipe in and monitor, if they wish to do so. Video surveillance monitoring training can be as detailed as, 'This is how you log in and view the cameras,' to 'Here's how to set the parameters of the cameras,' which could require a quick half-hour discussion or a little longer.

Cushwa: Preparing to use Bearcade is simple. Handling is simple. Motions needed are few. Minimal strength is needed. One training session, followed by a few personal practice sessions, is enough to completely understand and effectively use it. Reinforce with quarterly emergency drills.

What must a church do to ensure the effectiveness of these tools?

Shaver: It's simple: use the system. Throughout the day, check the status of the burglar alarm using the app on your phone. For the video system, the live view on your cellphone lets you check cameras and know very quickly if the system is working.

Aikin: Tools are only as good as the people informed on how and when to use them. While the tools selected should match with the intended application and user experience, any prior knowledge required to operate specific tools should be included in onboarding activities and practiced on a recurring basis.

Keller Bowling: The church can work with its congregation to ensure it has updated contact information for members. The member list can be segmented into sub-groups for easy management of committees and to suit unique messaging needs. With our platform, messages can be sent via phone calls, texts, emails and even social media postings.

Young: The church-at-large has to get out of denial. In 2017, there were 261 violent church attacks, compared with four in 2004. Violence is rising in churches, and ignoring the problem is never the answer.

McConnell: Two-way radios tend to disappear, especially when they're used by volunteers. Usually it's not intentional; people often forget they have them, leave them in their cars, or accidentally take them home.

To prevent this type of situation, I suggest labeling the radios and using a check-out sheet with each user's name and phone number. It can be as simple as putting a numbered sticker on each radio. That way, when all the radios come back, you can see if one is missing.

We also provide bank chargers with up to 18 places; so, one 18-bank charger will charge 18 radios with a single outlet. That makes it even easier to see if a radio is missing.

Cushwa: Our products are designed for interior commercial doors found in classrooms, offices, conference rooms, chapels and more. Our pre-use process is well-documented in written, picture and video form. A maintenance or facilities person, or even a volunteer, can easily handle the prep work.

Consistent placement throughout a campus makes everything fast, intuitive and effective. We recommend placing our units in approximately the same location within each selected room — no worrying about where it's kept, no delay in locating and deploying. Everything we do is about time.

Moa: Though church security and surveillance training budgets tend to be driven by frugality, churches often overlook the value of resources provided by the makers of those products, as well as community groups. For the most part, churches don't know about all the resources available to them.

If a church isn't 100-percent confident in its current technology's ability to help thwart a security emergency, what advice can you offer?

Aikin: Start with a security assessment of your current facility, policies and procedures. Reach out to local police and fire departments for consultation and evaluate resources such as PASS Guidelines and NFPA 3000.

From there, leverage security professionals — like commercial integrators and locksmiths — to conduct an audit and provide recommendations. Be prepared to define your needs, concerns and abilities.

Young: *Keep training.* Don't stop learning. Leaders are learners.

Keller Bowling: Research what other churches in your area are doing, and team up to hold trainings. Ask vendors what other churches are doing. We serve more than 10,000 churches and can help with best practices for mass notifications. Ask your vendors for references of other churches like yours to better understand the product's capabilities.

McConnell: Start by evaluating your ability to *hear, speak and see*. This means having the ability to communicate and visually access the facility. As I've discussed, a network of radios and security camera system allows churches instant access across the church and to the people inside.

Cushwa: For me, this is more of a passion than a job. My background is in the administration of schools, church settings, and being a parent. If you want to share your security concerns, I'll respond with ideas, suggestions, connections to experts I've worked with, and more.

If you don't directly purchase something from me or don't feel my various products are right for you, please know that I'm happy to share my knowledge and time. We're one layer of safety for operations that are global and extensive. I'm confident we can help you.

Moa: I'd say lighting is the best first step towards security. It's common sense: the better lit the area, the less likely an attack.

Additionally, people are used to keys; so, a smart key electronic lock system is a good option. There's simply a key and a lock, and that key can be set up so that it only works during a certain time.

Also, a smart key system saves the church from having to re-key because it can make a key inoperative if lost.

Shaver: Ask for assistance — no one knows it all, but there are organizations and trade publications, such as The Church Network and *Church Executive*, which are resources.

You can also interview local security dealers to discuss options. Contact manufacturers who have a passion for houses of worship and who understand the budget constraints churches face. These manufacturers can assist in education and also help select local security dealers to ensure a good fit with the church.

What can a church expect to pay for security – from simple tools to complex surveillance systems?

Young: You get what you pay for. I've heard of free trainings, but often times these are extremely basic with no scenario training. Often, \$99 is a good middle-ground cost of real-world, hands-on training.

McConnell: A six-bank two-way radio package starts at \$1,400. An 18-bank package starts at \$3,600, depending on the radio style.

Cushwa: Bearcade units are \$59 each, and the price goes down by volume.

From there, facial-recognition services, visitor management systems and social media monitoring services can be incorporated; many have acquisition and monthly monitoring costs. When you pursue those options, your due diligence and RFP process should likewise become more detailed.

Moa: A smart key system costs a few thousand dollars, and you can add on to it. While the keys in a smart key system are more expensive than mechanical keys, they can be managed better. If a large church rents out part of its facility, it can supply a PIN — for an access control system or alarm — or a mechanical key. With a PIN, it must remember to change it; so, the church is a bit more exposed than with a smart key system, which lets groups regularly on campus rent or purchase keys. Then, you can hold that group accountable for who went in and when.

Shaver: The layered approach allows a church to address the simple needs first, which could be a burglar alarm for less than \$20 per month or a four-channel video system for as little as \$900, or \$20 per month over a three-year period.

While intrusion alarms are best installed by local licensed companies, many times the simple video camera systems can be installed by church members with working knowledge of security cameras, or networking experience. Our products are ideal for this type of installation for many reasons, and this greatly reduces the cost of the system.

Aikin: Security emergency plans can be developed, communicated and practiced with little financial costs. Developing a plan is the most important tool. Seek out help from local resources, as many security professionals offer free facility assessments.

For churches with mechanical security devices, upgrades can range from \$25 (new keys systems, replaced hardware, etc.) to \$200 per door. When a church is ready to upgrade from mechanical security devices to electronic access control for a networked, remotely monitored solution, it could range from \$1,000 to \$3,500 per door.

Any solution you select needs to meet appropriate National Fire Protection Association®, Americans with Disabilities Act, and local code requirements. **CE**

— Reporting by RaeAnn Slaybaugh

About Air Comm



Air Comm is a full-service provider of two-way radios, accessories, video surveillance systems, and packages designed for the communication and security needs of any customer.

For a limited time, Air Comm is offering a special “Buy One Get One Free” deal on its popular Titan Radio, exclusively for *Church Executive* readers! For details, call 1-800-288-4505 or contact us at <https://www.aircomm.com/contact-us>.

As an authorized Motorola dealer with more than 30 years of experience, Air Comm supplies and services customers ranging from small businesses using just a few radios, to large nationwide corporations requiring multi-million dollar systems.

Air Comm features a wide range of Motorola and Titan Radio products.

Air Comm’s customers — which include numerous Fortune 500 companies and church facilities throughout the United States — rely on Air Comm’s premiere customer service and competitive pricing for their day-to-day radio communication requirements.

One of Air Comm’s most popular and versatile radios is its Titan Radio line. Titan Radio features an innovative 18-bank charging case, which allows customers to easily transport and charge up to 18 radios. Titan Radio is the exclusive manufacturer of the economic and efficient 18-bank charging case.

Churches and venues with staff, volunteers and guests use the 18-bank charger and radio system to broadly and immediately communicate throughout the facility, thereby enhancing security and responsiveness.



Titan Radio also offers 6- and 12-bank packages, including one accessory per radio and carrying case, starting at \$1,399.

Many customers also take advantage of Air Comm’s radio rental options. Air Comm rents any number of radios for a range of short-term and long-term contracts. Rental radios start at only a \$1 per day!

Air Comm is also very excited to introduce its new security camera and monitoring product line — SentraCam. SentraCam is a fully monitored real-time security camera system designed to enhance security and prevent crime.

SentraCam specialists will conduct an individualized analysis of your facility and determine the best equipment and setup to avoid blind spots and maximize coverage.

Video technicians monitor your facility in real-time. If an intruder trespasses or suspicious behavior occurs, the monitoring team has the ability to engage via loudspeaker immediately, often before law enforcement is called or can arrive.

SentraCam can also coordinate with law authorities to ensure your site remains protected.





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CHURCH SECURITY:

a balancing act

Allegion can help overcome the complexities of securing place of worship

Establishing a welcoming environment while maintaining security is challenging for many places of worship. They must balance the needs of their dynamic support staff, community members and guests while providing for their safety and the security of the church.

Security becomes even more complex when daycares, K-12 education and community groups are on the premises.

Fortunately, there are several resources available to help decision-makers address this balance of needs — all while extending an openness to the public.

Take a page from national guidelines. The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) created **guidelines** with the expertise of industry experts like K-12 school security leaders, the National Systems Contractors Association and the Security Industry Association. While developed for K-12 schools, it's clear to see how these practices can benefit church environments of various sizes. Churches have unique needs, but these guidelines are a great place to start.

It's recommended to take a layered approach to securing the property so if one layer is mitigated, another layer provides an additional level of protection. The PASS Guidelines identify five physical layers, each with components that will help discourage adversarial behaviors. These components include policy and procedures, people roles, architectural, communication, access control, video surveillance and detection and alarms. Policies and procedures is the foundation of each layer, with recommendations in best practices from the experienced members of PASS.

The intention of these guidelines is to provide a holistic scope of safety and security needs, ranging from weather emergencies to physical violence. Additionally, they help guide a structured approach of facilitating conversations with local law enforcement, emergency responders, administrators, IT directors and security integrators.

Considering all environments are different, it's helpful to first assess the security measures already in place and identify the most pressing needs. PASS also offers a checklist to get started.

Access control is the cornerstone of effective security.

Controlling and restricting access, from perimeter doors to interior offices, is essential to a safe place of worship. This doesn't mean everything needs to be constantly locked down. It's important to plan which doors should be locked and when. Churches also need to have record of who has access to each space.

There are physical access control solutions available to support each layer of a church. Select options that fit the church's security needs and consider the value that electronic access control might add to the overall experience. Electronic technology gives leaders greater control over their buildings and can reduce the overall costs to manage them. Electronic credentials in place of mechanical keys can simplify key management and improve security. Upgrading traditionally mechanical openings not only enables convenient keyless entry but also provides greater visibility over each opening.

Creating peace of mind by pioneering safety and security.

Allegion's vision is to make the world safer as a company of experts, securing the places where people live, work and worship. Allegion's team is experienced in a variety of environments and can help churches build a foundation of security while also achieving the other core needs of your environment.

Allegion prides itself on its innovative secure access solutions and best-in-class support. The company employs more than 100 architectural consultants and 650 local field consultants throughout the U.S. who are well-versed on local and national building codes. It's fostered strong relationships with architects, locksmiths and security integrators to support end users' needs.

Our experts analyze unique issues and identify solutions that fit individual facilities, management protocols, local risk levels and budgets. They address today's most pressing needs and help develop a long-term strategy that can evolve and adapt for future advancements.

Allegion's experts can help your church strike the right balance between security and openness. Contact a representative at us.allegion.com/CE.



ALLEGION™

PIONEERING SAFETY™



ENGAGE™ software and product portfolio enhances security and operational efficiency over mechanical alone

Economical to retrofit

Easier to securely manage keys

Flexible to expand to more advanced access control and video management solutions

Provides remote notifications



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Places of worship have a unique challenge of balancing security with the openness they offer to the public.

Adding electronic access control gives faith-based organizations greater control over their properties—while maintaining a welcoming environment.

Allegion's ENGAGE™ portfolio brings the added benefits of electronic solutions to any door, offering wireless options for interior and perimeter doors that are simple and economical to install. Key management is easier and more secure, and remote updates mitigate risks by providing more visibility and control to each opening.

Allegion's experts can help your church strike the right balance between security and openness. Contact a representative at us.allegion.com/CE.

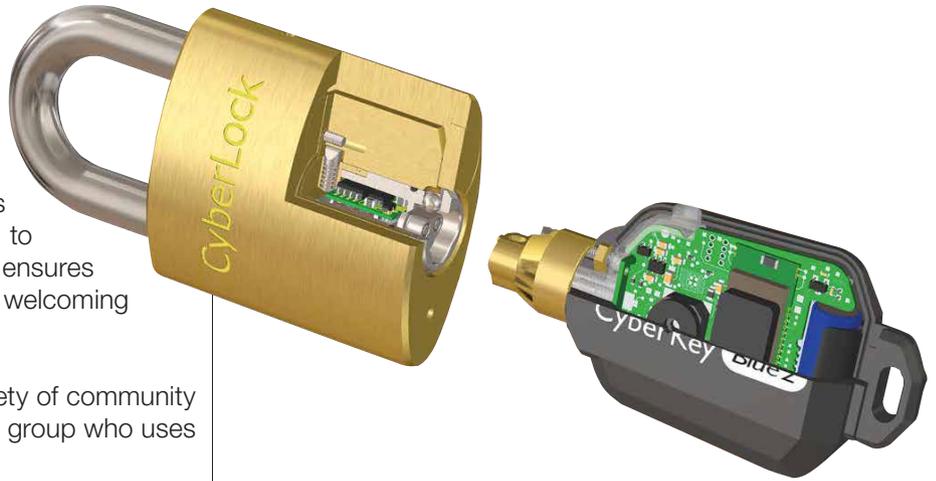
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5 REASONS

to consider a smart key system for your church

By John Moa



Worship facilities face a variety of security challenges. With multiple locking points throughout the facility and critical assets to secure, an access control system that ensures security — while maintaining an open and welcoming environment — is required.

Many worship facilities are home to a variety of community groups. Handing out master keys to every group who uses the building can be problematic.

Smart key systems are virtually tailor made for worship facilities. They allow facilities to manage who accesses certain areas of the building, and when. With smart key systems, churches can allow community groups to access specific doors at specific times, while denying access to offices, storage rooms and other critical areas.

#1: Control and Schedule Access

Permissions for each lock and key can be changed effortlessly, enabling immediate and precise control over access to all entry points. Smart keys are programmed with a schedule to open one, several, or all locks in the system within a designated time frame.

#2: Increase Accountability

Every time a smart key meets the electronic lock cylinder, a time-stamped access record is stored in both the lock and the key, providing system administrators with full visibility of all access attempts, whether successful or not.

#3: Easy Installation

Electronic cylinders are designed to retrofit into a variety of access points, including doors, cabinets, safes and more. Cylinders retrofit directly into existing hardware, making installation quick and seamless.

#4: Eliminate Duplication Concerns

Smart key systems employ unique access codes that electronically bind both the cylinder and key to one system, meaning smart keys are not susceptible to mechanical duplication like traditional master keys.

#5: Never Re-key Again

When a key is lost or stolen, electronic cylinders can be programmed to deny access to the lost or stolen key. Additionally, smart keys can be scheduled with an expiration date. This means when the key expires, it will deny access until communication occurs between the key and the software.

Bellevue Baptist church in Owensboro, Ky., holds five services in four languages on a weekly basis. With nearly 1,500 regular members, various schools, teams and other community groups calling Bellevue Baptist home, controlling access to different parts of their church is vital.

With a mechanical key system in place, Bellevue found that an unnecessary number of master keys were created. Pastor Adam Neel states, “We started with 24, but the final count was somewhere around 70 keys.” Seventy keys with the ability to open nearly any door in the church was problematic when it came to managing who entered the building and where they moved within the building.

Solution: CyberLock

When Neel saw an advertisement for CyberLock in a worship magazine, he tore out the page and decided to look into implementing CyberLock at Bellevue. After a few calls and some discussion about the ease of installation, Neel decided to use his own office door as a test for the CyberLock system. After finding it took just minutes to install, Bellevue decided to implement CyberLock throughout the building.

CyberLock gives Bellevue the ability to schedule access permissions, allowing specific people to access specific doors at specific times. Bellevue decided to implement CyberLock’s Flex System, allowing them to use RFID access control, as well as CyberLock’s electronic lock and key system for dual authentication.

The implementation of CyberLock significantly cut down on the number of keys in circulation and forced those who do hold keys to be accountable for them.

Additionally, the keys in circulation are scheduled to only open specific doors, allowing Bellevue to give access to certain parts of the building for community groups and local sports teams, while maintaining security throughout the rest of the building.

CyberLock offers Bellevue Baptist Church peace of mind, especially in their preschool and children’s area. Ensuring the safety and security of the children is a high priority for Bellevue.

“It gives us an enormous amount of peace of mind knowing that only those who have access permission can get into the children’s area,” Neel states.

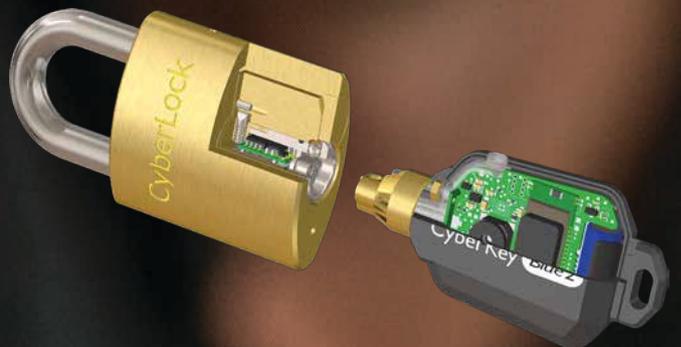
John Moa is Director of Sales at CyberLock, Inc.



THE KEY TO CONFIDENCE

OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS CyberLock® has assembled the largest array of key-centric access control solutions for a wide variety of applications. Our patented, sealed triangular keyway is your assurance that CyberLock will deliver versatile, intelligent, and dependable security solutions. **The Triangular Keyway. Only from CyberLock.**

*Electronic lock cylinders, smart keys
Control access with one software platform
Superior key control: re-key electronically*



How the Bearcade and B2 Work

As an Automated External Defibrillator is to sudden cardiac arrest, a Fire Extinguisher is to fire, and an EpiPen® is to dangerous allergic reactions, **Bearcade®** is the civilian response to a hostile intruder before professional safety forces arrive.

How Bearcade works and why — a visual instruction page for preparing doorways

Storage:

Since this entire conversation is about TIME. The Bearcade units should be consistently placed throughout a building or campus adjacent to the intended door. The units are typically hung on the wall with our L-shaped wall hanger hooks that allow for quick removal.

When a hostile intruder event or lockdown occurs, the first motion of the teacher should be toward the door to deploy the Bearcade. Finding the device should not be a problem. There should be not frantic searching.

Since the history of these bad events demonstrate the need to shelter in place in rooms that are not someone's normal office or classroom, the locating of a device should be consistent throughout a building or campus. Individuals might be heading toward lunch, recess, a classroom change, bathroom, or office visit. The nearest protection area could be any classroom, office, or even a large storage closet.

Introduction:

Having students and employees show up one day with the devices in place without training is not recommended.

All faculty and staff should attend a thorough In-Service Training session to understand the storage, handling and deployment of the units. Everyone attending the session should complete our In-Service Training Acknowledgement Form. Administration should maintain our In-Service Training Log to record who attended, what questions were asked, and what materials were presented.

Take time to introduce the units to a classroom. Pass it around. Have anyone who wants to touch or handle it have that opportunity. Answer questions. Discuss the serious nature of the unit.

Then, place it on the wall with an emphasis on the penalties for misuse, tampering, or touching the unit without permission.

Incorporate our recommended Code of Conduct or Handbook language into your student, family and employee handbooks.

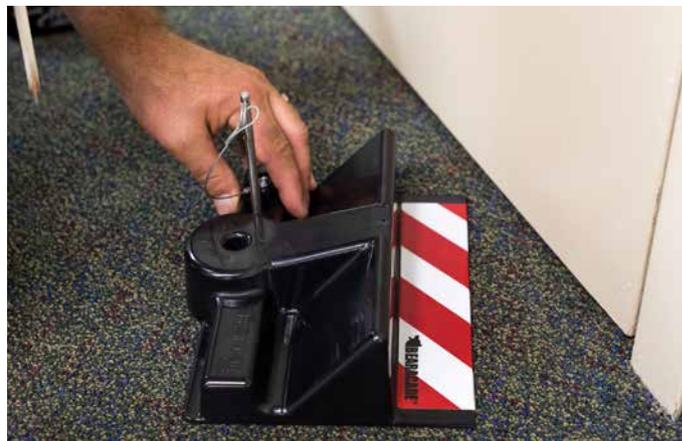
Deployment:

When a hostile intruder event or lockdown is initiated, the first movement of the Adult Supervisor in Charge (or trained additional persons) should be to rapidly deploy the unit. All other occupants of the room should move away from the door and to an area of cover and concealment.

Deploy the unit. Turn off lights. Quickly retreat to an area of cover and concealment.

Avoid noise or any disturbances. Silence cell phones. Listen and plan for next steps.

Next steps might be to evacuate via a window or outside door. Consult with your safety officials and administration.



Deactivation:

Since the situation might be quite fluid, be prepared to switch from shelter to evacuation quickly.

Deactivating Bearcade units is simply pulling the pin. The unit is designed to glide with the door. No need to do anything else with the unit.

The systematic clearing of a building can take hours. For recommended clearing and deactivation suggestions, please **contact us directly**. For safety reasons, we do not detail this in a public manner on this site or social media.



BEARACADE®

LOCKDOWN RESPONSE SYSTEM



We developed Bearacadade following our own 2012 high school shooting to **RAPIDLY REINFORCE and SECURE CLASSROOMS ... BEFORE police arrive!**

"Our students are significantly more safe with Bearacadade."
Superintendent, Enrollment 4,941

"We are so happy with Bearacadade. The police department is so impressed with our system. The Bearacadade units are in place within seconds, and our doors are secure. Teachers feel confident knowing that we have the best possible security measures in place for our students."
School Director, Enrollment 253

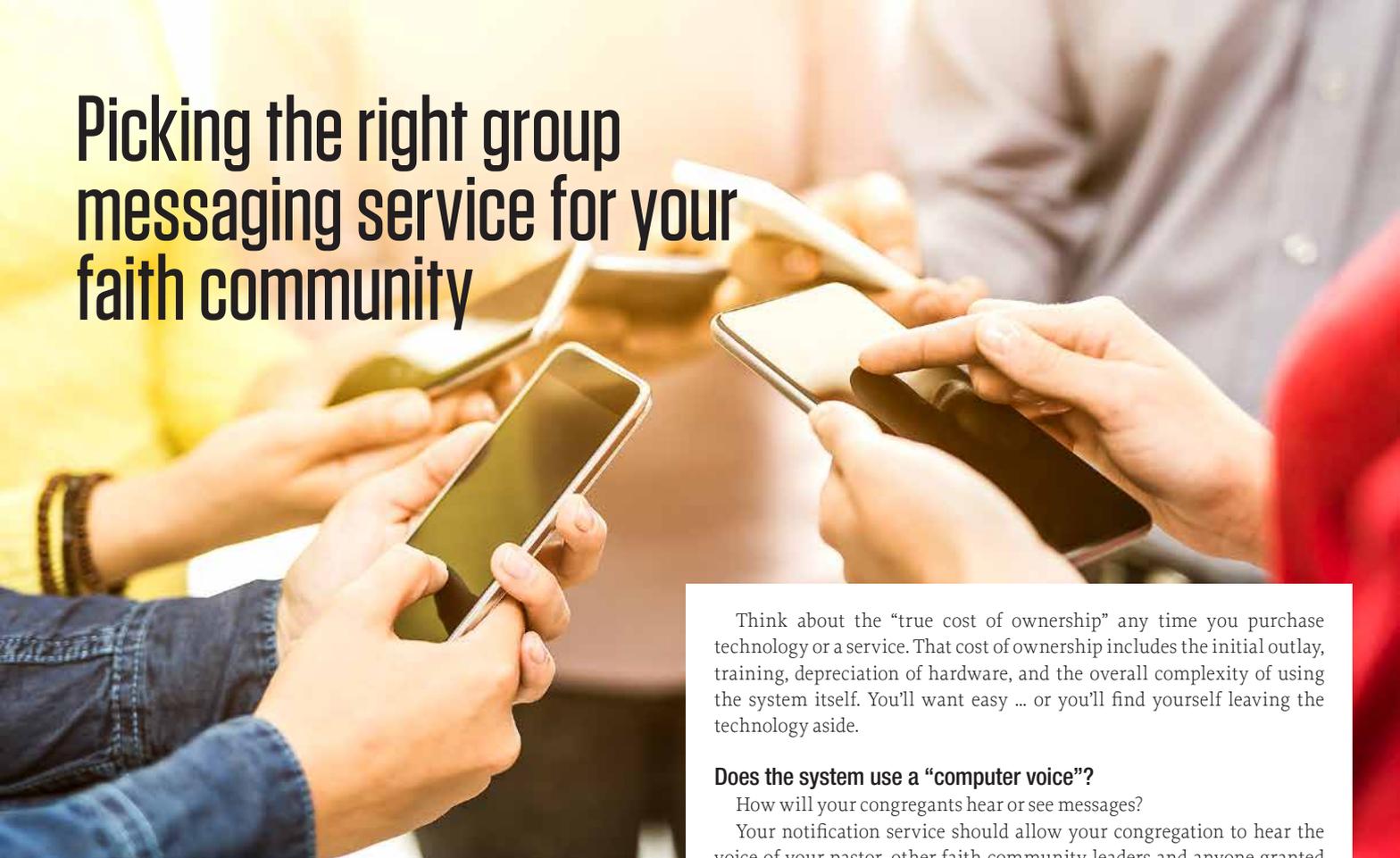
"Bearacadade is fast, effective, and easily identifiable."
Fire Chief, Population 22,262

"Bearacadade is a very cost-effective way to potentially save a lot of lives. You can't really put a price on that."
Superintendent, Enrollment 8,447

- No plates or permanently mounted hardware!
- Not a secret lock - don't create more problems!
- Notification Panel alerts and guides!
- One motion deactivation!
- One solution for all interior doors!
- Certified strength! Withstands 4,800 lbf and ballistic rounds!
- Administration and police can gain entry!
- Proven during 30 actual incidents during the past two years - including custody disputes, workplace violence, violated restraining orders, neighborhood concerns, and hostile attacks!
- **Affordable - \$59 each!**
Volume discounting!



Picking the right group messaging service for your faith community



Here are some guidelines on how to review automated group messaging providers and get the best system for your communication needs.

What services are included from your notification provider?

Do they provide voice (phone calls)? Texting? Email? Can they push the same message automatically to your social media accounts?

You're going to want a system that gives you the flexibility to reach your audiences in the manner they prefer.

Do they allow you to segment your groups in a way that matches your own grouping, either by ministry or how you've got them loaded in your directory system?

Such "subgroups" give you the potential to tailor messages to individual audiences, such as youth ministry, men's and women's groups, worship committee and so forth.

This prevents your members from getting too many messages, particularly irrelevant ones.

Can you access the system when you need it ... and how you need it?

While the vast majority of messages are sent by faith communities during business and evening hours, you might want the flexibility for weekend messaging. And, should you need a little extra help, you'll want customer support available at those hours, too.

Also, can your notification service be accessed and received through computer, tablet, smartphone or traditional phone? Technology usage varies a lot within a faith community. You'll want your system to give you as much access as possible.

Do you need to install a phone line or dedicated hardware?

Will you need specialized software and training? Today is the age of simplicity. More and more applications are available on the web.

Think about the "true cost of ownership" any time you purchase technology or a service. That cost of ownership includes the initial outlay, training, depreciation of hardware, and the overall complexity of using the system itself. You'll want easy ... or you'll find yourself leaving the technology aside.

Does the system use a "computer voice"?

How will your congregants hear or see messages?

Your notification service should allow your congregation to hear the voice of your pastor, other faith community leaders and anyone granted permission to send messages.

They should be able to read texts and emails on a computer or smart phone.

And for those times when you might not want to use your own voice, ask if the system has a "text-to-speech" function that allows you to type the message and have it delivered in a natural sounding automated voice.

What happens if I want to call someone, but the person is not there?

Any good notification system should provide the ability to leave a message on a voicemail and to continue to try to reach a person up to the time or frequency limits you set for a call.

Also, if for some reason a person completely misses your message, you'll want your congregants to be able to call in for free to hear the message you recorded.

How can I know if my messages are received?

Faith communities continually struggle with measuring or verifying who received communication and when. When choosing a notification provider, you'll want to ask about message reports. These can be a great way to see who received your message.

How easy is it to set up, master and maintain?

Are we talking lots of time with the "book for dummies"? Will this tool take most of this week — um, month — to get it the way we want it? Does it require extraordinary care and feeding?

Simplicity is key when reviewing notification services.

Does it charge by the call? By the minute?

This is an important consideration when evaluating providers. If you plan to use the service for emergency and non-emergency communication, you might want to consider an unlimited calling plan where you pay one price and send as many messages as you'd like.

While pay-per-call plans might seem less expensive, they often charge more than one credit per call, increasing the overall price.



Protect, Inform and Engage Your Congregation With Reliable Communication

Despite heroic efforts, faith communities struggle to communicate effectively in both emergency and routine situations. Learn how simple technology can help.

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A layered security approach for churches

By Keith Shaver

Today we hear news reports of an ever-increasing number of church vandalism, thefts, robberies and, in some instances, active shooters. Those stories are driving the local churches to investigate methods to secure the church facility and protect its members' personal security.

For the church to provide the right security solution, its current security plans and procedures should be reviewed. Two key elements to consider during this review are a *security team* and the *use of electronic security equipment*.



The security team is the most cost-effective security measure, providing eyes and ears to monitor activities in the parking lots, entrances, worship venues and hallways. The security team is important; but without 24-hour surveillance, the church is unable to ensure security after-hours. To provide surveillance around-the-clock, the church will need to investigate electronic security options.

To understand the electronic security options, let's look at a layered approach to security for a church with a ground zero position — that is, without a security team and no electronic systems currently installed.

Review the current situation

To start, investigate the personal security needs of staff and church members. Consider these questions:

- Have there been any issues with vandalism, theft, or general security concerns?
- Are cameras in use?
- Are staff hours a concern for personal safety?
- Are there children and nursery concerns from parents?
- Consider future needs

Looking to the future, is the church considering any new buildings or campus growth that would affect the security team? Are additional cameras required? Will there be any future needs for perimeter door access, or interior door access for children, nursery, A/V and server rooms? Do you need to provide access into the buildings for the community?

Given the current situation and future needs, let's review the layered approach to define the various security layers in detail.

The Base: Security Team

The base of any security solution is a security team. In addition to lay persons who are involved with the church, the team should include active or retired law enforcement personnel. Oftentimes churches employ a local police officer on site for each service along with a police cruiser. Check if local agencies will provide training for the team and consultants can assist creating a team and defining internal church procedures.

Layer 1: Intrusion Alarm

The first electronic layer is an intrusion alarm. It's similar to a home system with keypads, door contacts and motion detectors, but it also includes glass-break sensors and panic-alarm buttons. This system provides security for those arriving early or working late, as well as after-hours protection.

Layer 2: Video Security

The video security system is the best option for identification of persons outside or inside the buildings. It also provides video evidence for law enforcement of incidents and activities in children's classrooms to alleviate parent and church safety concerns. A basic system can include anywhere from a few up to hundreds of **Internet Protocol (IP) cameras**. The video is recorded on a **network video recorder (NVR)**, which also provides remote camera viewing for mobile phones.

Layer 3: Access Control

The access control layer consists of electronic lock hardware on external doors and some interior doors. The doors are unlocked by an authorized person swiping an access card or key-fob near a card reader mounted near the door. One additional benefit of access control is the elimination of key-management issues.

Layer 4: Integrated System Solution with Analytics

The integrated solution enables sharing of information to trigger actions such as the alarm, camera recording quality, and door locks. Along with the video monitoring of cameras, the integrated system features include perimeter and interior door access control, intrusion alarm system management and analytics.

Layer 5: Cloud

In the case of the integrated solution described above, the cloud would contain an automatic backup of the system, configuration files and programming data. This could enable viewing and allow system-wide programming for multi-site locations.

A Universal Need for Churches

Church security is no longer a luxury — it is a necessity to ensure the safety and security of the church and its members.

Security may be a single person patrolling the parking lot, or a team of individuals. It may include an intrusion system, a video security system, an access control system or a fully integrated security system — not every layer is necessary, but some form of protection is a requirement.

The layered approach allows the church to review its current situation, address future needs, and select a system that is best able to support the increasing security risks facing today's churches.

Keith Shaver has worked in the security industry for 23 years, with 18 years as VP of sales and marketing for Matrix Network/Advanced Technology Video. In 2018, the company introduced a new security brand, **Uniview Technology**, to address the cost-conscious customer needs. The *uniview tec* product line provides an affordable solution for the House of Worship security needs.

Uniview Technology is a new alternative to the current off-shore video security products with a focus on houses of worship. Based in north Texas, Uniview Technology is a Texas-registered company with U.S.-based operations. The benefits include sales assistance across the U.S. to help design a video system for your church and after-sale customer and technical support.

Uniview Technology is a member of the National Association of Church Design Builders (NACDB) and The Church Network.



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