

June 18, 2022

From: Pastor Sam Royappa, FUMCWA

To: Church Staff, Volunteers, Ushers, and Leaders/Chairpersons of FUMCWA

Subject: Effective Safety Concerns and Recommendations

In the wake of continuing 'gun violence' all across the nation at public locations including churches, I am asking that all of us take extra precautions in order to ensure a healthy, safe, and productive work and worship place whenever we are present in the church building and the church parking lot. We need to constantly remember and remind ourselves of the utmost importance of safety for people of all ages. The following guidelines should be followed:

- Five minutes after the Sunday worship service has begun, the alley or parking lot entry doors and the elevator are to be locked but the front entry doors facing 76th Street are to be left unlocked. At least one usher should be fully present in the narthex near the entry doors during the worship service.
- Shortly after the beginning of all weekday meetings and gatherings in the church building and the parking lot, all entry doors should be locked.
- All meetings and gatherings in the Fellowship Hall should take place with 'someone' being assigned the responsibility of locking the doors and of ensuring safety within the building and beyond.
- The Zoom meeting option is available for all group gatherings or meetings and study groups if and when desired and determined by the leadership of the respective groups. Those who desire to schedule Zoom meetings, please contact either Deb Semrad or Pastor Sam, or the church office.
- All should communicate with each other in a timely manner and with the church office regarding any 'strange' and 'unhealthy' activities in and around the church building. Let us also exchange ideas and information to improve our safety and prevent all incidents inside and outside of the church premises.

Yes, we do care for people and their needs by offering people help and assistance. However, at the same time, we are called to proactively and responsibly prevent all kinds of threats to people and our building.

I do appreciate your gracious understanding and cooperation in the best interest of God's people and their precious lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Sam