

Clerks' Tip Safe Churches



From time to time I get asked about what the Presbyterian Church is doing to help our congregations to be safe places. This used to be more often about sexual misconduct policies and child safety policies, but now questions are being asked about personal safety in church buildings. Two recent things came my way that I thought you might be interested in.

First, the Presbyterian Mission Agency published an article about how a church in Michigan has implemented a Safe Church Plan. Here is a link to the article—it may give you some ideas for your congregations:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/is-your-church-safe/>.

Second, we learned from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance about a federal grant program that congregations may be eligible for, the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, or NSGP. Last year, at least five PCUSA churches successfully applied for this grant.

“The main purpose of the grant program is to support “target hardening” and other physical security enhancements. For example, surveillance systems, physical access control equipment, impact resistant doors and gates, intrusion detection sensor and alarms, exterior lighting, physical perimeter security (gates, fences, jersey barriers), and screening and inspection equipment.

The program is also to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration between public and private community representatives. Examples of this includes developing security plans, training for congregants and ushers, and contracting security personnel.”

Here is a link to an archived FEMA webinar: [archived January 22 webinar](#). FEMA will be having at least two other webinars this year:

Date	Time (ET)	Webinar Title and Link	Call-in Line	Call Code
February 4	2:30 PM	Nonprofit Security Grant Program Overview	1-866-454-4207	368026#
February 12	2:30 PM	Nonprofit Security Grant Program Overview	1-866-454-4208	368026#

Please let me know if you have questions or topics, you'd like me to address in Clerks' Tips.

Peace, Sara

Sara Coe
Stated Clerk
National Capital Presbytery
(240) 514-5352
scoe@thepresbytery.org