

Appendix A

Incidents of Gun Violence in Houses of Worship

October 27, 2018: Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, PA. Shooter walked in the open synagogue carrying an AR-15 rifle and three pistols. Shouting, "All Jews must die." the shooter killed 11 and injured 6, including 4 injured patrol officers. Shooter was in the synagogue for 20 minutes before shot and wounded by a police tactical team. Ages of victims range from 54 to 97, with most over 70. Squirrel Hill is one of the safest neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. Synagogue had previously had training from Homeland Security on building exit routes (functional, accessible), saving lives.

September 24, 2017: Burnette Chapel Church of Christ, Antioch, TN. Shooter wearing ski mask killed woman in parking lot, made entry to church through open back door, shooting and injuring six (6) people until subdued by an usher / deacon. Shooter was injured by his own firearm during the scuffle. 1 killed, 6 injured.

September 20, 2015: Oasis Tabernacle Church, East Selma, AL, 3 wounded

June 18, 2015: Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC, 9 killed

May 24, 2015: First Church of the Nazarene, Hartford, CT, 1 wounded

December 4, 2014: Bayshore Baptist Church, Bradenton, FL, 3 killed, 1 wounded

June 13, 2014: Mother of Mercy Church, Phoenix, AZ, 1 killed, 1 wounded

April 13, 2014: a Neo-Nazi gunman shot three people at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, Overland Park, KS, 3 killed

August 19, 2013: Uptown Baptist Church, Chicago, IL, 1 killed, 4 wounded

March 31, 2013: Hiawatha Church of God, Ashtabula, OH, 1 killed

January 12, 2013: Full Gospel Christian Church, Flint, MI, 1 killed

December 10, 2012: Faith Center Church, Sunrise, FL, 1 wounded

December 3, 2012: First United Presbyterian Church, Coudersport, PA, 1 killed

November 5, 2012: Principe de Paz church, Westlake, CA, 1 killed, 2 wounded

October 24, 2012: World Changers Church International, Atlanta, GA, 1 killed

October 30, 2012: Greater Sweethome Missionary Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, 1 killed

September 6, 2012: West Pensacola Baptist Church, Pensacola, FL, 1 wounded

August 5, 2012: a 40-year-old man opened fire in the parking lot of the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, WI and then entered the building shooting congregants. He killed six people and injured three including seriously injuring a police officer and then, in a gunfire exchange with police officers, killed himself; 6 killed, 3 wounded

June 7, 2012: Victory for the World Church, Atlanta, GA, 2 killed, 2 wounded

May 3, 2012: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, MD, 2 killed

April 22, 2012: Destiny Christian Center, Aurora, CO, 1 killed

September 18, 2011: Greater Faith Christian Center Church, Lakeland, FL, 1 killed, 1 wounded

December 24, 2010: Mosaic Church, Chattanooga, TN, 9 wounded

November 16, 2010: East Oakland Church, Oakland, CA, 1 killed

September 27, 2010: St. Dominic Roman Catholic Church, Youngstown, OH 1 killed

August 30, 2010: Church of Latter Day Saints, Fresno, CA, 1 killed

February 14, 2010: New Gethsemane Church of God, Richmond, CA, 2 wounded

October 29, 2009: Adat Yeshurun Valley Sephardic Orthodox Synagogue, North Hollywood, CA, 2 wounded

April 7, 2009: Korean Religious Retreat Camp, Temecula, CA, 1 killed, 2 wounded

March 8, 2009: a 27-year-old man entered the First Baptist Church, Maryville, IL armed with a gun and a knife. He first shot the pastor. When the gun jammed, he pulled out a knife and stabbed two congregants who tried to subdue him. 1 killed, 2 injured

November 23, 2008: a man entered St. Thomas Syrian Orthodox Church, Clifton, NJ, where he shot and killed his estranged wife and another congregant who tried to intervene, and wounded another, 2 killed, 1 wounded

July 27, 2008: a 58-year-old man entered the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville, TN during a children's performance and used a shotgun to kill an usher and a visitor, and injure 7 others. He was stopped and restrained by church members until the police arrived, 2 killed, 7 injured

December 9, 2007: a 24-year-old former member of the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) youth training center in Arvada, CO, attacked the mission, killing two people. Thirteen hours later he opened fire at the New Life Church, Colorado Springs, CO, where he killed two women. The gunman was shot several times by an armed volunteer security officer but ultimately killed himself; 4 killed, 5 wounded.

August 12, 2007: First Congregational Church, Neosho, MO, a 52-year-old man killed the assistant pastor and two deacons, and wounded five others in the church. The man had argued the night before with the two deacons he shot, both who were relatives of his, 3 killed, 5 wounded.

May 20, 2007: First Presbyterian Church, Moscow, ID, 3 killed, including one police officer

October 2, 2006: West Nickel Mines Amish School, Lancaster County, PA, 5 killed, 3 wounded

May 21, 2006: a 25-year-old man entered the Ministry of Jesus Christ Church, Baton Rouge, LA and fired at congregants during the Sunday service. After killing four people and wounding the pastor and another, he fled in a car and was later captured at a nearby apartment complex, 4 killed, 2 wounded

February 26, 2006: Zion Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, 2 killed

March 12, 2005: a 44-year-old man shot six people at the Living Church of God, Brookfield, WI, during a church meeting held at a hotel. He killed the pastor, the pastor's 16-year-old son, and himself and injured four others, 3 killed, 4 wounded

September 15, 1999: a 47-year-old man entered the Wedgwood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, TX, during a teen rally and began shooting. He killed seven people, including three teenagers, and injured seven people. He threw a pipe bomb into the church and then killed himself, 7 killed, 7 injured

No amount of planning can stop someone from wanting to harm others. Nevertheless, having a plan of prevention and response can make your church a more difficult target and can help reduce the harm if violence occurs. A frequent recommendation for effective planning is to prepare for when something happens rather than if it happens.