**McKnight Crossings Church of Christ Security Policy – *DRAFT* -**

**Purpose:**  
This policy ensures a safe and secure environment for all members, visitors, and staff while maintaining an atmosphere of hospitality and worship.

**1. General Security Procedures**

* Church leaders will designate a **Security Team** composed of trained volunteers.
* Ushers and greeters will serve as the **first line of observation** for any suspicious activity.
* Security cameras will be placed at all **entrances, parking lots, and high-traffic areas**.
* All emergency situations must be reported to **911 immediately**.

**2. Handling a Violent Visitor or Active Threat**

**Response Steps:**

1. **Alert Others Quietly** using a pre-arranged **code word** or signal.
2. **Call 911 Immediately**, providing location and details of the threat.
3. **De-escalate if possible** by remaining calm and speaking in a **non-threatening tone**.
4. **Evacuate or Shelter in Place** if violence escalates.
   * If safe, **guide members to exits**.
   * If unable to leave, **barricade in a secure area**.
5. **Security Team Intervention** should only occur if necessary for protection.

**3. Handling a Disruptive Visitor During Worship**

**Response Steps:**

1. **Approach the individual calmly and discreetly**.
2. **Encourage compliance** using a firm but gentle tone (e.g., *"Let's step outside to talk about how we can help you."*).
3. **If they refuse to leave**, notify the **Security Team**.
4. **Call police** if the situation escalates or becomes threatening.

**4. Preventing Child Abductions & Custody Issues**

**Child Check-in & Release Policy:**

* All children must be **checked in and out** using a secure system.
* Only **authorized adults** listed on the child’s records may pick them up.
* Staff must **verify photo ID** for any unfamiliar individuals.

**Response to Attempted Abduction:**

1. **Deny access** to unauthorized individuals and keep the child inside a secure area.
2. **Notify church leadership and security immediately**.
3. **Call 911** if the individual insists or attempts to take the child.
4. **Monitor all exits** to prevent unauthorized removal.

**5. Emergency Preparedness & Training**

* Conduct **annual safety drills** (fire evacuation, active threat response, etc.).
* Train all **ushers, greeters, and children's ministry workers** on security protocols.
* Maintain an **emergency contact list** for local law enforcement and medical personnel.
* Establish a **discreet alert system** (e.g., using a **code phrase**) to signal security concerns.

**6. Parking Lot & After-Hours Safety**

* Ensure **adequate lighting** in parking areas.
* Have a **security volunteer monitor the lot** during services.
* Offer an **escort service** for individuals walking to their vehicles at night.
* Designate a **lock-up team** to secure the building after events.

**7. Cybersecurity & Financial Protection**

* Implement **secure online giving platforms** with encryption.
* Restrict access to **financial and membership data** to authorized personnel.
* Train staff to recognize **phishing attempts** and fraudulent donation requests.

**Review & Updates**

This policy will be reviewed **annually** and updated as needed to address emerging security concerns.

**Approved by:**  
[Church Leadership Team]  
[Date]