



## Backpack/Bag/Package Carry-in Policy

This is **not** a “zero tolerance” policy, we will use common sense enforcing this policy. AV techs, worship leaders, mothers with babies, handicapped individuals, etc. will sometimes have a need to carry bags/boxes into the Sanctuary.

For **fire evacuation purposes** no one will be allowed to place bags or packages in the aisles in the Sanctuary. They will have to put them completely under the seat in front of them or leave the bag/package in the back of the Sanctuary or Narthex not blocking any walk ways.

**Unknown visitors** with ‘tactical’ backpacks, unusually heavy or suspicious looking bags/packages will **NOT** be allowed into the building, especially the Narthex or Sanctuary.

- Safety Team members are to enforce this policy at the entrance doors. This policy should be communicated to all Ushers and Greeters when going on duty each Sunday.
- If an **unknown person** attempts to bring a backpack/bag/package into the building, the Safety Team member will tell them that they “...cannot bring the backpack/bag/package into the Sanctuary because it could impede a fire evacuation.” This is will be the **only** reason given the person to prevent any negative impressions or verbal confrontation.
- They will be told to “*Please take the backpack/package/bag back to your car or you can leave it outside the entrance doors and we will keep an eye on it while you are attending services.*”
- Under **no** circumstances will Safety Team members handle the backpack/bag/package. The Safety Team member will **not** offer to search bags and then allow the bags into the service.
- Any person not willing to comply will be asked to leave the church property by a Safety Team member. If they refuse, we will inform them that “...you are now trespassing and creating a public disturbance. The police may be called to have you removed from church property.”
- If the Safety Team member has any concerns for their safety and safety of others they will call over the radio ‘call 911 to the North/South door for trespasser’ and take any appropriate action to protect themselves and others.
- The Safety Team security camera monitor will call 911 and stay on the line with Dispatch to relay any additional information from Safety Team members about the ‘trespasser’ (e.g. location, what they are wearing, carrying, driving, etc.).
- Any time that 911 is called all Safety Team members will pull on their security sashes as soon as possible before police arrival.