



"From Where I Sit ..."

"Membership 'Does' Have Its Privileges ... Like SafeChurch"

Over the years, American Express has made famous the slogan "Membership Has Its Privileges." And as I consider the CME Church's choice of GuideOne Insurance Company as its preferred provider for property and casualty insurance coverage through the CME Fire and Casualty Insurance Plan, I am reminded that membership "does" have its privileges. Such is the case when you consider SafeChurch.com as one of the many benefits offered through a GuideOne Insurance relationship. SafeChurch, GuideOne's comprehensive risk management web site for churches, is unlike any program I have ever seen that was designed with a proactive benefit to assist churches with their insurance needs. Simply put, the program itself indicates the unique suitability of GuideOne Insurance to meet the church insurance needs of today's churches.

Let me mention just a few of the many benefits of SafeChurch.com. As a registered user, you will receive, "Safety Watch," a periodic emailed newsletter highlighting a topic that is of current interest to churches. During 2012, twenty-four of these newsletters were emailed and are still available online at GuideOne.com.



SafeChurch®

Under the resources tab within the SafeChurch website, a registered user has access to a selection of additional broad resource areas including 1) Starting a Safety Ministry, 2) Emergency Preparedness, 3) Facility Safety, 4) Financial Safeguards, 5) Employee and Volunteer Safety, 6) Children and Youth Safety, and 7) Transportation Safeguards. And each of these seven areas has sub-topics such as the following, which are a few found under Facility Safety: 1) Activities, 2) Building and Grounds, 3) Crime Prevention, 4) Electrical, 5) Fire Prevention, 6) Heating and Cooling, 7) Kitchens, 8) Lightning Surge Protection, 9) Slips and Falls and 10) Water Damage. Armed with the materials in this section alone, a Church's Safety Team or Trustees will find themselves better prepared to fulfill their responsibility to protect the assets of their local church.

What I find most helpful about this site is the fact that the resources offered are time tested and therefore eliminate the need for willing leaders to re-create or re-invent the wheel. The explanation and instructions along with the needed documents and forms are all provided. A good example is background checks. Most churches, particularly smaller churches, feel they have little to risk and therefore seldom consider the need to perform a background check. But every church, regardless of size, faces similar risk and therefore has an equal need to perform background checks. The SafeChurch website provides important information about the process and procedures, offers the forms and check lists necessary to perform a background check and to secure approval to perform the background check and, most importantly, suggests contact numbers of organizations that may be necessary to complete the process.

Everything is laid out for the user, but just in case additional assistance is needed, a toll free number is provided to SafeChurch so a trained specialist may further assist a caller. It just doesn't get much better than this.

However, in order to have access to these resources, you have to be a registered user and the easiest way to become a user is to own a policy with GuideOne Insurance. To set up an account, a user will need the GuideOne policy number and the number of the insurance broker,

both of which are found on the declaration page of the insurance policy. Hence, the title of this article, "Membership 'does' have its privileges."

If you are a GuideOne Insurance policy holder, then I do hope that you are making the most of the plethora of resources offered on the SafeChurch website. And if you are not a GuideOne Insurance policy holder and would like to become one through the CME Fire and Casualty Insurance Plan, all you need do is contact my office (877) CME-GBPS or (877) 263-4277 or our insurance broker (Brown & Brown at (800) 378-7655) to begin the enrollment process. Our goal is to provide the best insurance plan to our Churches and the best advice to assist our Churches in meeting their insurance needs. These resources are readily available at no additional charge so I believe everyone should take advantage of these opportunities. Or at least that is the way it looks to me ...

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the
Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.c-m-e.org)