

TEXAS “OPEN CARRY” LAW

Once again, I find myself intrigued with the things I did *not* learn in seminary. I took Church History classes, Bible classes, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Family Systems theory, Christian Ethics, Christian Education, Hebrew, Greek, Trinitarian Theology, Presbyterian Polity, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Pastoral Counseling, Clinical Pastoral Education, Mission and Evangelism, and the list goes on. But nothing – truly *nothing* about guns in church. Who knew I’d need that!

But, here it is.

I read an article taken from an Austin NBC affiliate (KXAN) that indicates, although the Governor has signed the law, many people don’t yet understand it. And, the nine hundred thousand who currently carry concealed hand gun licenses, and were grandfathered in to the new law, have not and will not receive any information to clarify their licenses.

It appears that additional areas also need explanation. Questions surround when guns are permitted on school grounds, mental healthcare facilities, banks, churches, businesses that serve alcohol, and even courts.

Yes, your Session has also struggled. And I want you to know what they decided. As a body, as the *serving body* here in this congregation, Session members decided that we do not want guns visible on the church property. We understand that some of our members have licenses, and that they have been trained, but because we have older adults here and sometimes small children, we don’t want guns that are visible – even when they’re appropriately holstered. We also have chosen not to add gun law signage to our doors.

Therefore..... we have decided that if a person comes into the church building with a gun visible, that person will be asked to leave. They have the choice to leave and not return, or to leave and return *without* the gun. If that person refuses to leave when requested, they will be violating laws of trespass.

Please allow me to apologize to you for not writing a Pipeline article that has more spiritual content than this article does. I think it’s still an article that offers information – *church information*. And I think if we all agree to follow the plan that your leaders adopted, then at least we will all be in agreement about behavior at church.

And if I decide to return to seminary for more course work, I’ll insist on some classes that pertain to operating a church in Texas. Apparently, that’s important.

Be safe out there, ya’ll,

Candice

“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said,
“for all who draw the sword will die by the sword.”
Matthew 26:52