THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO WATCH THIS PRESENTATION, IT TAKES MANY PEOPLE TO FORM A CHURCH AND AS PART OF THIS FORMATION PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO SHARE IN THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP. A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP IS SPENDING TIME WORKING TOGETHER SAFELY TO GROW THE CHURCH. IN THIS PRESENTATION WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON ACCIDENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SURFACES WE WALK ON OR ANOTHER WAY TO SAY IT IS WE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT WAYS TO PREVENT SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.
WELCOME TO A REVIEW OF WAYS TO PREVENT SLIP AND FALL INJURIES. THE BEST METHOD TO PREVENT THIS TYPE OF ACCIDENT IS TO IDENTIFY WHAT MAY HAPPEN AND WHAT MAY BE THE CAUSE. IN THIS PRESENTATION WE ARE GOING TO REVIEW EXPOSURES RELATED TO THINGS INSIDE THE CHURCH FACILITY, OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT A CONDITION THAT MAY EXIST IN YOUR CHURCH PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR LEADERSHIP FOR REVIEW OF THE EXPOSURE AND METHODS FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION.
WE ARE GOING TO START AT THE INTERIOR OF THE CHURCH. CHURCHES ARE UNIQUE IN THEIR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND BEAUTY. IT IS THIS UNIQUENESS THAT PRESENTS MANY EXPOSURES TO SLIP AND FALL HAZARDS. IN THIS SECTION WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON:

- FLOORS
- STAIRS
- HOUSEKEEPING
- WEATHER
- SYSTEM MALFUNCTIONS

THESE ARE FOUR AREAS THAT LEAD TO MANY SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.
TRANSITION AREAS ARE THE LOCATIONS WHERE TWO DIFFERENT FLOOR SURFACES MEET. IN MANY CHURCHES ARCHITECTURALLY THEY TRY TO MAKE THE DIFFERENT FLOOR SURFACES BLEND TOGETHER UNLIKE THE PICTURE MANY TIMES THE TRANSICION IS NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE.

THE MORE EXTREME THE TRANSITION THE GREATER THE POTENTIAL FOR AN ACCIDENT TO OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE DECREASE OR INCREASE IN TRACTION PROVIDED BY THE FLOOR SURFACE. GOING FROM A CARPETED SURFACE TO A HARD SURFACE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR A NEGATIVE EVENT.

IF THIS AREA IS NOT CLEARLY IDENTIFIED THEN A PERSON MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CHANGING THEIR GAIT OR PREPARE FOR THAT VARYING TRACTION.

HOW MAY THIS BE IMPROVED:
• PLACE ITEMS AT THE TRANSITION POINT THAT CLEARLY INDICATE A TRANSITION HAS OCCURRED. FOR EXAMPLE KEEP TRANSITIONS AT ENTRY POINTS, FURNITURE AND PLANTS MAY BE USED TO IDENTIFY A CHANGE/TRANSITION.
• AS IN THE PICTURE HAVE CLEAR TRANSITION POINTS BY USING CONTRASTING COLORS OR PATTERNS.
• IN SOME CASES EVEN SIGNAGE MAY BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION.
• THE MORE IDENTIFICATION THE BETTER
FLOOR SURFACES

• HARD SURFACE FLOORING
• CARPET

THE TRACTION OF FLOOR SURFACES IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF PREVENTING SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.
IN MANY CASES CHURCHES HAVE BEAUTIFUL HARD SURFACE FLOORING SUCH AS MARBLE AND TERRAZO FLOORS. ALTHOUGH BEAUTIFUL THESE FLOOR SURFACES ARE VERY SLIPPERY. IF WATER OR OTHER LIQUIDS GET ON THIS SURFACE IT INCREASES THE POTENTIAL FOR SLIPPING. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HARD FLOOR SURFACES BE KEPT AS DRY AS POSSIBLE.

CARPETED FLOOR SURFACE PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANTLY BETTER TRACTION THAN A HARD SURFACE. A CARPETED SURFACE PROPERLY MAINTAINED IN AN ENTRY AREA MAY REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR SLIPPING AS A RESULT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS.

IF THERE IS CONSIDERATION OF NEW FLOOR SURFACING IT IS ENCOURAGED TO WORK WITH FLOORING SPECIALIST TO EVALUATE THE SLIPPERY NATURE OF THE SURFACE AND AREAS THE FLOORING IS TO BE INSTALLED.

GOOD MAINTENANCE OF ALL FLOOR SURFACES MAY ALSO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR SLIP, TRIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.
Floor Mats

- Condition
- Location
- Position
- Surface

IN FACILITIES THAT HAVE HARD SURFACES AT ENTRY POINTS, IN MANY CASES IT IS RECOMMENDED TO UTILIZE SLIP RESISTANT FLOOR MATS. HOWEVER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT IF FLOOR MATS ARE USED SOME CONSIDERATIONS BE EVALUATED

CONDITION OF THE FLOOR MATS. DO NOT USE MATS THAT ARE DAMAGE AND SIGNIFICANTLY WORN. THESE SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE.

EVALUATE THE LOCATIONS WHERE THEY MAY BE USED. TO ENSURE YOU HAVE THE CORRECT SIZE AND THEY ARE NOT STACKED OR OVERLAPPING, THIS MAY CREATE A TRIP HAZARD.

POSITION THE FLOOR MATS SO THEY DO NOT BLOCK THE ENTRANCE AREA AND DO NOT CAUSE A HAZARD WITH OTHER EQUIPMENT OR DOORS. THE AREA SHOULD BE INSPECTED REGULARLY TO ENSURE THE MATS REMAIN IN THE PROPER POSITION.

BE SURE THE SURFACE OF THE FLOOR MATS ARE IN GOOD CONDITION, AND ARE NOT CONTAMINATED WITH TOO MUCH DEBRIS. FLOOR MATS SHOULD BE SELECTED TO ENSURE THEY CAN ACCOMMODATE THE FOOT TRAFFIC AND THAT THE MAT DOES NOT MOVE ON THE FLOOR SURFACE. IMPROPERLY SELECTED MATS MAY CAUSE SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO SLIPPING.
AS STATED BEFORE FLOOR SURFACE ARE SELECTED FOR CHURCHES TO ENHANCE THE LOOK OF THE STRUCTURE. IN MANY CASES STAIR ARE ALSO BUILT AND THE SURFACES ARE TO ENHANCE THE LOOK OF THE FACILITY. THESE CONSIDERATIONS PROVIDE UNIQUE EXPOSURES FOR STAIRS.

IN MANY CASES STAIRS ARE BUILT AND SURFACED TO PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED LOOK TO THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE STAIRS. AS NOTED WHEN WE DISCUSSED FLOORING SURFACES IT IS IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY TRANSITIONS AND WITH STAIRS THESE TRANSITIONS ARE AT THE BOTTOM AND TOP OF THE STAIRS AND AT THE TREADS. HAVING THEM BLENDED IN TO THE SURROUNDINGS MAKES IT VERY SUSCEPTIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO TRIP AND FALL.

ANOTHER COMPONENTENENT UNIQUE TO CHURCHES IS THAT MANY TIMES STAIRS DO NOT HAVE A STANDARD RISE, THIS UNIQUE FEATURE ALSO ENHANCES THE POTENTIAL FOR A TRIP AND FALL.

WHEN POSSIBLE IF STEPS CAN CLEARLY BE IDENTIFIED THAT SHOULD BE DONE. POSSBIBLY MARKING EDGES OR UTILIZING LIGHTING MAY ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THE STAIRS.
HOUSEKEEPING

• STORAGE AREAS
• DEBRIS
• CRITICAL HAZARD AREAS (STAIRS / WALKWAYS)
• FLOOR CONTAMINANT

MANY CHURCHES HAVE LIMITED STORAGE AREAS WHICH MAY LEAD TO CLUTTERED AREAS AND DEBRIS MAY BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT. AS WITH MANY ORGANIZATIONS GOOD HOUSEKEEPING IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO PREVENT SLIP, TRIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WALKWAYS AND STAIRWAYS ARE CLEAR AND NOT IMPEDED BY THE STORAGE OF MATERIALS IN THESE AREAS. IT MAY SOUND EASY, BUT WHEN SPACE IS LIMITED A FREE SPACE MAY LOOK LIKE A GOOD STORAGE LOCATION. BUT THESE, AREAS ARE CRITICAL AREAS TO KEEP FREE OF DEBRIS. BLOCKING STAIRS AND WALKWAYS SIGNIFICANTLY CAUSE TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS AS WELL AS MAY LIMIT THE ABILITY TO SAFELY EVACUATE AN AREA IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

MONITIORING FLOOR CONDITIONS IS IMPORTANT AS WELL. WET FLOOR SURFACES MAY INCREASE THE SLIPPERY NATURE OF THE FLOORS AND IN SOME CASES ALLOWING SOME LIQUIDS TO DRY MAY CAUSE A STICKY SURFACE TO DEVELOP. WHENEVER THERE IS SOME CONTAMINANT IS ON THE FLOOR IT SHOULD BE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALSO THE AREA SHOULD BE MARKED TO WARN PEOPLE THERE IS INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR SLIPPING IN THE AREA.

AN ITEM TO NOTE IS BE SURE TO HAVE CLEANING MATERIALS SUCH AS MOPS AND BROOMS AVAILABLE AND WARNING SIGNS. TRY NOT TO LEAVE AN AREA OF
CONTAMINANT UNTIL SOME SIGNAGE MAY BE IN PLACE. AND ONCE THE AREA IS FREE OF CONTAMINANT THE WARNING SIGNS NEED TO BE REMOVED.
AS WITH ALL OTHER FACILITIES, CHURCHES HAVE MECHANICAL SYSTEMS THAT MAY MALFUNCTION AND DAMAGE FLOORS OR CONTAMINATE FLOOR SURFACES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT AN INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PROCESS BE DEVELOPED FOR THIS EQUIPMENT.

MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT WILL ALLOW FOR PREPARATION OF POTENTIAL FAILURES AND REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

KNOWING WHAT EQUIPMENT IS WITHIN THE FACILITY AND RECOGNIZING WHAT PROBLEMS A FAILURE MAY CAUSE WILL ALLOW THE ORGANIZATION TO HAVE EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO REDUCE DAMAGE AND CONTACT PEOPLE FOR ASSISTANCE.

MONITORING SYSTEMS WILL GO A LONG WAY TO PREVENT EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND ALLOW DAMAGE TO BE MANAGED.
RAIN AND SNOW ENTER THE BUILDING

- Be prepared to identify wet floor surfaces
- Locate equipment near entry points
- Umbrellas/jackets
- Floor mats

Weather conditions do intrude upon the interior of the building and it is important to be prepared. Identify the areas that are most susceptible to tracking in water that will create the potential for increasing the potential for slippery surfaces.

Part of the preparation is to have equipment and signage close to the areas of moisture build up so it may be utilized and signage may clearly mark the exposure. As noted previously do not leave warning signs out after the hazardous condition no longer exists.

In many cases attendees to church services will utilize umbrellas and jackets to be protected from the rain. If possible it may be beneficial to have an area where these may be stored and an area where they may be removed to contain the area in a limited location.

We discussed mats previously but entry points are key areas where they may be used, but ensure they are in good condition and are properly placed.

Now let’s take a look at some slip, trip and fall exposures outside of the facility.
EXTERIOR EXPOSURES ARE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF PREVENTING SLIP TRIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS. EXTERIOR EXPOSURES CHANGE FREQUENTLY AND RAPIDLY SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO IMPLEMENT INSPECTION AND MONITORING PROCESS TO EVALUATE WALKING SURFACES, STAIRS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS.

SO LET’S DIG INTO THESE AREAS OF CONCERN...
SIDEWALKS, CURBS, AND GENERAL GROUNDS CAN BECOME DAMAGED OVER TIME DUE TO WEATHER OR DUE TO EXCESSIVE USE. INSPECTION PROCESSES LOOKING FOR DAMAGE AND CHANGES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED TO IDENTIFY WHEN A CHANGE THAT MAY CAUSE AN ACCIDENT HAS DEVELOPED.

WHEN DAMAGED AREAS ARE DISCOVERED EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO STABALIZE THE AREA TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR ADDITIONAL DAMAGE AND MARK THE AREA TO LIMIT TRAFFIC.

REPAIRS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ONCE COMPLETED WARNING SIGNS AND MARKERS SHOULD BE REMOVED.
THE TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION OF WALKWAYS MAY MAKE THEM MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO UNEVEN SURFACES... IF IT IS DISCOVERED THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DEVIATION IN THE SURFACE OF A WALKWAY IT SHOULD BE PREPARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN SOME CASES SECTIONS OF WALKWAYS MAY BE DAMAGED AND OR MISSING WHICH SHOULD BE CORRECTED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN ALL CASES THE AREA SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AND WARNINGS BE POSTED UNTIL THE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.
EXTERIOR STAIRS

- INSPECT / EVALUATE TREADS
- MARK AND REPAIR
- HANDRAILS

AS WITH WALKWAYS THERE SHOULD BE A FORMAL PROCESS FOR INSPECTION AND EVALUATION OF STAIRS TO ENSURE THEY THE TREADS ARE NOT DAMAGED AND POTENTIALLY CAUSE A SLIP TRIP OR FALL ACCIDENT.

HAND RAILS SHOULD ALSO BE INSPECTED FOR DAMAGE OR FAILURE. SIMILAR TO WALK WAYS DAMAGED AREA SHOULD BE MARKED TO WARN EMPLOYEES THAT THERE IS DAMGE TO THE AREA AND TO WORK IN THE AREA WITH ADDITIONAL CAUTION.

WHEN REPAIRS ARE COMPLETED ALL WARNING INDICATORS ARE TO BE REMOVED.
WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE ONE OF THE MOST CRITICAL ASPECTS THAT MAY CAUSE EMPLOYEE INJURY WHILE WORKING OUTSIDE. THE WEATHER SHOULD BE MONITORED TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTIONS MAY BE TAKEN TO REDUCE EXPOSURES.

IN CASES WHERE THE WEATHER MAY BE GOING BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES, APPLICATION OF MATERIAL TO IMPROVE THAWING SHOULD BE APPLIED. IN CASES OF WINTER STORM ENSURING EMPLOYEES HAVE PROPER SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT AND PROTECTIVE CLOTHING.

DUE TO THE PHYSICAL EXERTION WHEN MANUALLY REMOVING SNOW, EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE EVALUATED TO ENSURE THEY ARE PHYSICALLY CAPABLE OF THE WORK.

AS PART OF A PROPERTY EVALUATION EVALUATE THE LOCATION OF DOWN SPOUTS FROM GUTTERS TO ENSURE THEY DO NOT DRAIN INTO WALKING PATHS. EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF WATER AND ICE BUILDUP MAY DEVELOP CREATING A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR SLIP AND FALLS.
OUR FINAL FOCUS ON PREVENTING SLIP, TRIP, AND FALL ACCIDENTS WE WILL DISCUSS LADDERS AND APPROPRIATE SHOES.

STEP STOOLS, EVEN JUST ONE STEP, MAY PRESENT A SIGNIFICANT HAZARD. LADDERS AND STEP STOOLS PRESENT SIMILAR HAZARDS. SO, WE WILL DISCUSS BOTH OF THESE SINCE THEY ARE BOTH USED IN CHURCHES

MANY TIMES PEOPLE DON’T THINK ABOUT THEIR FOOTWEAR BEING A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO ACCIDENTS. BUT, FOOTWEAR IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF PREVENTING SLIP AND FALLS, SPECIFICALLY WHEN WORKING ON STEP STOOLS AND LADDERS APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR SHOULD BE USED.
LADDERS / STEP STOOLS

- Do they need to be used
- Selection
- Inspections/maintenance
- Destroy damaged equipment
- Proper set up

Ladders and step stools should be used on a limited basis. They are not designed to be primary work platform. Whenever possible appropriate lifting devices and properly set scaffolding should be used as a raised working platform instead of a ladder.

If ladders are to be used properly sized and strength ladders should be selected. When evaluating the weight capacity it is important to factor in any material being carried as well as the weight of the individual.

All ladders should be inspected for damage each time they are selected for use. They should be properly maintained and stored to ensure they do not sustain damage.

When ladders are damaged they need to be removed from service and destroyed. Damaged ladders should be destroyed beyond use when damaged to prevent people from trying to use the equipment.

As well as proper selection it is important that they be properly set up. Step ladders and step stools need to be fully opened and not leaned against anything. Extension ladders should be properly placed to ensure the angle
WILL NOT ALLOW FOR THE LADDER TO FALL AWAY FROM THE SUPPORT WALL.

EMPLOYEES SHOULD REVIEW TRAINING MATERIALS ON PROPER USE OF LADDERS.
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PROPER SHOES BE WORN WHEN PERFORMING WORK. DRESS SHOES THAT DO NOT HAVE A SLIP RESISTANT SOLE AND TREAD SHOULD NOT BE USED WHEN WORKING. THE SHOE SHOULD HAVE A PROPER TREAD AND NOT BE TOO WORN. IN MANY CASES IF POSSIBLE EMPLOYEES SHOULD WEAR SHOES THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE ANKLE.

SHOE SELECTION WILL ENSURE THERE IS AS MUCH TRACTION AS POSSIBLE FOR THE EMPLOYEE WHEN THEY ARE WORKING ON VARIOUS SURFACES. SHOES PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE IN PREVENTING SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.
IN SOME CASES IT MAY BE BENEFICIAL TO HIRE A SUB CONTRACTOR

IF THE SCOPE OF WORK IS OUTSIDE OF THE CAPABILITIES OF EMPLOYEES IT IS BENEFICIAL TO HIRE SOMEONE WITH THE SPECIFIC SKILLS AND EQUIPMENT TO PERFORM THE WORK PROMPTLY AND SAFELY.

WHERE THE WORK IS BEING PERFORMED MAY ALSO PRESENT UNUSUAL HAZARDS THAT MAY LEAD TO THE UTILIZATION OF A SPECIALIZED CONTRACTOR

AND FINALLY WHEN USING A CONTRACTOR IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE A FORMAL WRITTEN AGREEMENT OUTLINING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL PARTIES.
WHEN EVALUATING POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT ACCIDENTS ARE A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT ALIGN TO CAUSE THE ACCIDENT. IF ANY OF THE EVENTS MAY BE PREVENTED THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL THE ACCIDENT WILL BE AVERTED.

EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTS OCCUR WHILE WORKING AT YOUR FACILITY. BUT, EMPLOYEES THAT ARE TRAVELLYING ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH MAY BE EXPOSED TO A BROADER SCOPE OF ACCIDENT SOURCES. SO EMPLOYEES SHOULD LEARN TO EVALUATE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS TO OCCUR AS A RESULT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

WHENEVER THERE ARE DAMAGES IDENTIFIED THAT MAY CAUSE INJURY CORRECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY. IF CORRECTIVE MEASURES MAY NOT BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AREAS SHOULD BE MARKED TO INDICATE THE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE.
ACCIDENT PREVENTION REQUIRES ALL EMPLOYEES AND LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER. IDENTIFYING PROCESSES THAT MAY CAUSE INJURY AND GENERAL FACILITY EXPOSURES. WORKING WITH RAISED PLATFORMS PRESENTS SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS AND TRAINING SHOULD BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO THE USE OF LADDERS AND STEP STOOLS. NEVER UTILIZE EQUIPMENT THAT WAS NOT DESIGNED TO BE USED AS A LADDER OR PROPER WALKING SURFACE.

A KEY FACET TO THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE THAT ATTEND AND THE EMPLOYEES THAT REPRESENT THE CHURCH. REDUCING THE EXPOSURE TO ACCIDENTS FOR EMPLOYEES WILL REDUCE THE POTENTIAL OF ACCIDENTS OCCURRING WITH VISITORS. WORKING TOGETHER AND WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER REDUCES THE POTENTIAL FOR SOMEONE TO SUFFER AN ACCIDENT AND SUSTAIN AN INJURY.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO REVIEW THIS PRESENTATION ON WALKING AND WORKING SURFACES TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS.