

MISSION STATEMENT:

Advocating action on behalf of those affected by the criminal justice system.

GOAL:

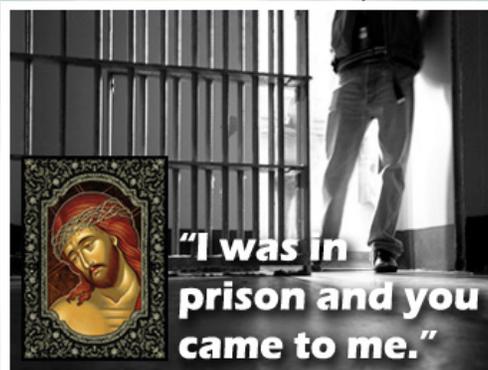
Ecumenical collaboration to provide support through advocacy, education, restorative justice, and resources for individuals, families, and communities affected by the criminal justice system.



As Christians, we are called by God to serve those among you.

Micah 6:8, Matthew 25:36b and Hebrews 13:3a are just a few places where God directs us to care for those involved with prison systems.

John Wesley began prison ministry in 1730 and believed that personal holiness needs to lead to social holiness and social justice.



Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Team

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church

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Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice



“Remember those who are in prison as though you were in prison with them.”

HEBREWS 13:3a NRSV



Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
The United Methodist Church

Everyone can do *something!*

Anyone can do prison ministry!

- You do not have to enter a prison to be a part of prison ministry!
- Only a small minority of lay people are actually present weekly or daily in a prison setting to minister with individuals and small groups.
- Many people involved in prison ministry contribute through prayer, writing letters, and collecting items for returning citizens who are being released back into the community.

If you have an interest in this ministry or you would like more information, please contact us today!

We can assist with any of the following:

- How to get started
- Getting a speaker for your event
- Book and Bible studies

Who are we?

- We are a group of men and women who want to support restorative justice and work with people interested in prison ministry.

How can we help?

- We will provide continued education through events, book recommendations, Bible studies, agency contacts, speakers, and other resources.



What can you do?

- Sign up on the United Methodist Church General Board of Church & Society website to receive Action Alerts, news articles, and more: umc-gbcs.org/take-action
- Connect with agencies or other churches to participate in prevention, advocacy, and education for congregations and communities. Get involved with ministry to the incarcerated, their families, victims, and prison staff.

What is Restorative Justice?

- Restorative Justice is a concept of justice that involves the victim, the offender, and the community coming together in a healing process.
- Globally, restorative justice practices can be viewed as an alternative to incarceration and revenge, enabling all parties to communicate, attempt to understand what has happened, and proceed with healing and restoration.

Did you know?

- The USA has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners.
- In 2009, Pennsylvania was rated #1 in the United States for prison growth.
- An average of 1200 persons are currently in the Lancaster County Prison each week, of which 78% are detainees awaiting court action, and 55% have committed less serious, non-violent offenses.
- At least 1300 minor children in Lancaster County have incarcerated parents.
- *All* children are negatively affected by limited or no contact with their incarcerated parent(s). Many children are plagued with shame, guilt, and anger.

