



NEW EVENT

Healing Communities

Vision: Building relationships of healing, redemption and reconciliation in families and communities impacted by crime and mass incarceration. A national model for clergy & congregations to offer restoration and healing for everyone affected by the criminal justice system

A Healing Communities Training will be held on **Saturday, October 10, 2015 from 9am-4pm at St. Matthews UMC of Valley Forge, 600 Walker Rd, Wayne, PA 19087**. You can register online or send your registration by mail; lunch included (see registration for lunch choices).

Cost is \$25 per person, includes training materials, continental breakfast & light lunch; your church is encouraged to bring 3 or more persons, including your pastor to attend the training.

Trainers are Mr. Doug Walker, National Coordinator of the UMC Church & Society Criminal Justice Reform and Mrs. Linda Van Til, Certified Lay Minister, EPA Conference UMC, Prison Ministry & Restorative Justice Work Team. The training is sponsored by the following work teams of the UMC EPA Conference: Prison Ministry & Restorative Justice, Church & Society and Healing & Wholeness.

"Healing Communities" is a proven, national model, created by the Annie E Casey Foundation and faith leaders from across the theological spectrum, to engage congregations in the restoration and healing of the church and community who have been impacted by crime and the criminal justice system. Healing Communities is a framework for ministry to persons returning from or at risk of incarceration, their families, and the larger community. It challenges congregations through mobilization of its existing resources to become "Stations of Hope" for persons affected by the criminal justice system.

Healing Communities identifies basic components of action for congregations. Each action is built on existing strengths, all located within the existing mission and ministry structure of the local church. Resources helpful in ministries among those impacted by the criminal-justice system include the formal and informal networks of congregational life, and the Christian themes of forgiving, healing, redemption, reconciliation and justice.

The training covers:

- Essential information and perspectives on the criminal justice system, current issues, and the impact of crime on victims, survivors, offenders and families;
- Relevant questions for reflection and discussion within congregations;
- Ideas and resources for pastors and faith leaders to engage congregants;
- Tools, information and resources for congregation members;
- Resources and dedicated time to develop a customized congregational action plan suited to the culture, demographics and core beliefs of each congregation;

*This training has been approved for 6 hours in Leading for Christ Servant Ministers. For questions, contact Linda Van Til at ravenlinda1@dejazzd.com or (717) 626-0745.